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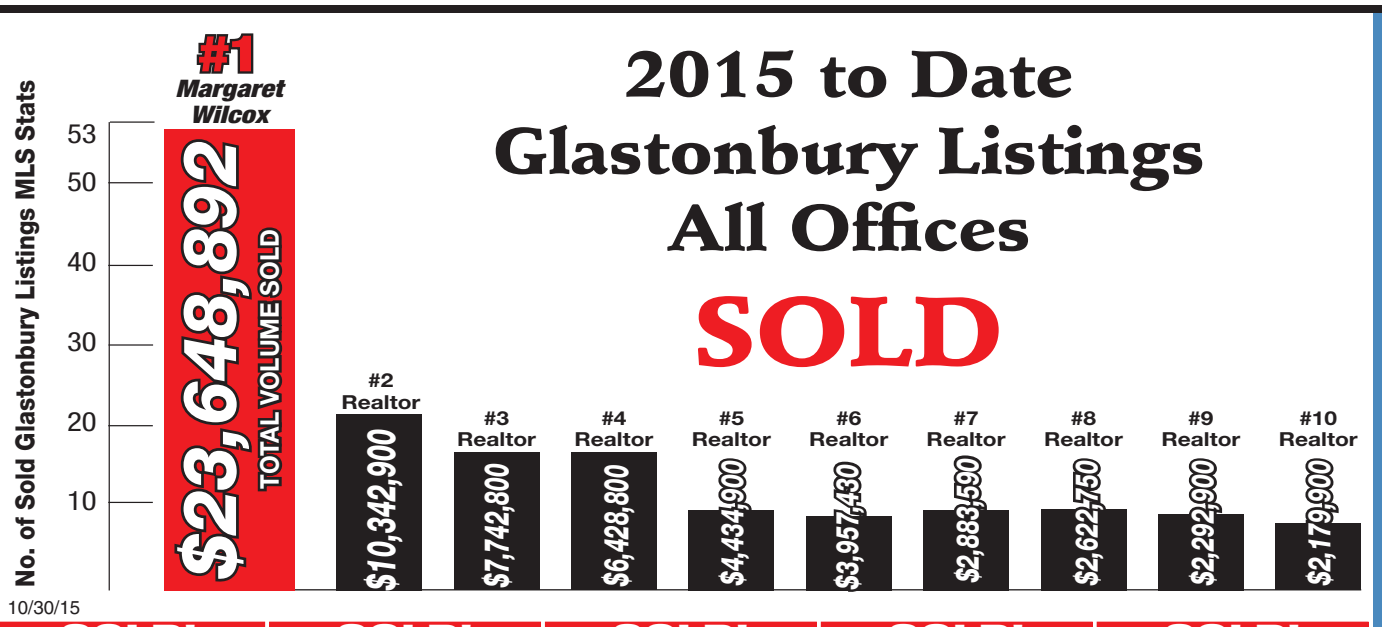

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"It was my honor." - *Diane Northrop on her 42 years of service on the board of finance*

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ON THE COVER

Patti and Jim Cole offer music in the intimacy of their home.

Photo by Brian Ambrose
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‘Beautiful and functional’

Potter’s designs are meant to be used

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Courtesy photos

Suzanne Aberg is creating pottery again after a 20-year hiatus

Suzanne Aberg’s love of pottery began when she was growing up in Glastonbury.

“I think my first introduction to it was at Glastonbury High School. I always just really loved it,” said Aberg, who went on to take lessons and become a team member at Wesleyan Potters in Middletown.

“That’s where I really learned how to make glazes; I learned how to load a kiln, all the ins and outs. I was there for seven or eight years. After I got married and the kids came along, I couldn’t do it anymore.”

She and her husband, Kris, lived in Meriden and Vernon before building a house in Glastonbury in 1999.

It took some time, but pottery has come back into Aberg’s life.

“In 2012, my husband was taking some old TVs to the ‘put and take’ in Glastonbury. While he was dropping our old stuff off, someone was bringing over a potter’s wheel. They were just cleaning out someone’s house,” she said. “It was an old Shimpo wheel. That’s a professional wheel, a kind of old-school wheel. It works great. It’s 40 years old.”

For a while, Aberg said, “it just sort of sat in the basement.” Then, her husband set up a workshop area in their basement, including building a countertop and sink.

“He encouraged me to get back into it,” said Aberg, who’d taken about a 20-year break from pottery.

She found a clay supplier in Windham, near UConn, when coincidence struck again.

“I had to find someone to fire it for me. Right after that, he [Kris] finds a gorgeous, brand-new kiln. A lady bought it but never used it. She was moving from Connecticut to Florida and had to clear her world out and sold it to us for great price,” Aberg said. “I had clay. I had a kiln. Since then, I’ve been playing with it, making things and firing them and experimenting with glazes. It’s been really, really joyful for me to do this again.”

She infused that spirit into the name of her business, MudJoy Pottery.

"It just sort of came to me because clay is mud and mud is kind of playful, and it is joyful for me to do this; and my daughter's name is Joy, so it all kind of came together," she explained.

Aberg focuses on functional pottery, doing both hand-building and wheel-throwing.

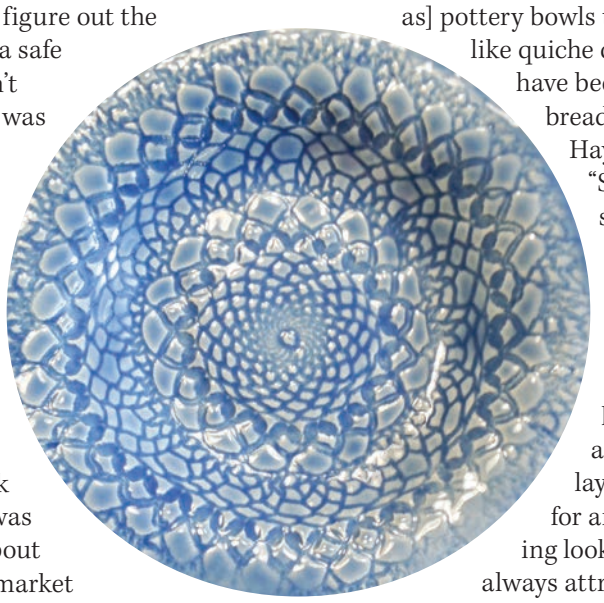
"I want to make things that are useful, bowls, mugs. I like to make these dishes, slab dishes that could be nice for serving things. There's one I love to put guacamole in," she said. "I drink out of my coffee cups every morning; I have my eggs on a small plate; I use my bowls for everyday dinner, when I'm serving a salad or that sort of thing. I have little leaf dishes in the bathroom with soap in them."

While she was getting started, she gave away much of her work.

"I enjoy making all this stuff so much but I can't keep it all. I gave a lot of it away to my friends. When I was experimenting, figuring out shapes and designs and colors, I would give a lot of it away," she said.

She now has a Facebook page for her designs and also has sold her work at the Glastonbury Farmers Market.

"I've just started selling it again. I'm trying to figure out the right forum, a safe forum. I didn't know what I was getting into, who would want my things," she said. "A neighbor was involved in the farmers market. We had a potluck dinner. She was telling me about the farmers market and encouraged me to join. I found it's a great way to sell my work. I've had a really, really positive response."



Suzanne Aberg specializes in functional pottery, such as this bowl.

That neighbor was Nancy Hayden, owner of G&P Cookies, and she's a big fan of Aberg's work.

"Suzanne's pottery is beautiful and functional; it can be so hard to find that combination. She has some unusual ideas for her pieces, [such as] pottery bowls that look like quiche dishes, but have been used as bread baskets," Hayden said. "Suzanne's specialty seems to be glazes. She chooses such nice colors in her glazes, as well as layering colors for an interesting look. I'm always attracted to pottery, and Suzanne's is especially appealing. The colors pull me in, and I usually find an interesting texture inside a dish or at the bottom of a bowl. The bowls are beautifully shaped, with thin sloping sides and a nice, thin edge. I have a favorite MudJoy bowl, with a blue and green glaze that I particularly love. This must be the most multi-purposed bowl in existence. It's my favorite cereal bowl; I've used it as an ingredient prep bowl; it makes a great ice cream bowl; and right now it's holding garlic bulbs. I have to use that garlic up, because I want my cereal bowl back!"

Aberg likes to hear that people are using her creations.

"[They] should be used. Sometimes I think people feel, 'I'm going to put it out for decoration.' I make everything with the thought of it being used, and if you're using it, maybe you're getting joy out of it," said Aberg, who currently works on her pottery part-time, with a day job as an IT project manager.

Having a studio in her home gives her extra flexibility.

"One of the benefits I have of having it in my basement is I can go down for an hour and leave it," she said. "It's really nice. I think, 'I'll go make something or I'll go glaze

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"To be successful is to have something come out of kiln that makes you go, 'Wow,' that's like Christmas morning when I open up the kiln."
– Suzanne Aberg

something or go trim something.'"

Aberg sometimes presses objects into the clay, such as old lace and doilies, or plant leaves or flower petals.

She finds herself continually inspired by nature, such as a recent trip to the beach.

"I was sitting there looking at the ocean. It was so calm and so clear. There was a beautiful sand color into the beautiful ocean into the beautiful sky. It was like three stripes. I was thinking I want to make that into a bowl," she said.

Another piece was glazed with dark blues and purples.

"After it came out of the kiln, I thought, 'This is like a midnight sky.' It looked so beautiful," she said.

She's been enjoying the creative process, including playing with designs and glazing.

"There's a lot of experimenting in pottery. There are so many processes that clay goes through from the raw clay to being a beautiful dish on somebody's table. There are so many things that go into it. The clay fires to over 2200 degrees. There are so many things that can go wrong with it – the glaze can bubble; the pottery can crack," she noted. "To be successful is to have something come out of kiln that makes you go, 'Wow,' that's like Christmas morning when I open up the kiln." GL

Learn more at facebook.com/mudjoypottery or send an email to mudjoypottery@gmail.com.

Courtesy photo

Suzanne Aberg wants people to use the pottery she creates.

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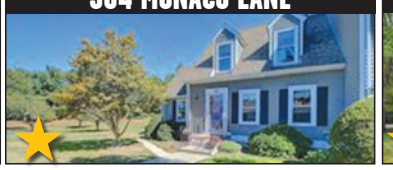

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Glastonbury $379,905
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Music in an intimate setting

Patti and Jim Cole provide a gathering place

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

Jim Cole was hosting a party at his home to celebrate the release of his new CD in 2003 when he realized that just about everyone there was a musician, too.

Cole, who performs in a style known as overtone singing, and his wife, Patti, had an idea. Why not invite the musicians to perform at their home? And why not invite some friends to listen?

"We were thinking we'd love to hear what everyone else is doing," Patti Cole said. "We started having art gatherings with a pot-luck supper and an open mic. People would come and we'd have a little stage outside if the weather was good."

The gatherings attracted local poets and other artists in addition to musicians. The get-togethers grew. "We told people to invite people," she said. They started calling their concerts "The Gathering Room."

Kate Callahan, a singer-songwriter from West Hartford, was among the early performers. Others followed, including Alex DeGrassi, who records on the Windham Hill label and is known throughout the world for his finger-style guitar playing. Other well-known artists include guitarist Pierre Bensusan and folksinger Anais Mitchell.

The Coles think of their concerts as having friends over for an evening of music. They ask guests for a donation for the musician along with a contribution to the local food bank, but don't make any money themselves. The concerts aren't open to the public; in fact they share their home address only after a guest signs up to attend. "We don't get anything out of it," Patti Cole said, adding that increasing numbers of musicians are doing home concerts.

She said guests who arrive first usually claim a seat on the couch, and others find chairs and other seating in the comfortable, spacious room.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the Coles' daughters, Emily and Amanda, decided they wanted to do something to help. The family

Brian Ambrose photos

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"We were thinking we'd love to hear what everyone else is doing. We started having art gatherings with a pot-luck supper and an open mic. People would come and we'd have a little stage outside if the weather was good."

– Patti Cole

Brian Ambrose photos

sent an email to several musicians and signed up six acts for what became the first of many concerts to benefit worthy causes. The concert drew 65 people and raised close to $1,000 to help Habitat for Humanity in the Gulf region.

More recently, the Coles have sponsored annual benefit concerts to support a school in Sierra Leone.

Jim Cole met a woman from Sierra Leone through his work with Catholic Charities in Hartford. Before long, several organizations in the area were helping to raise money to build a school in her village. The project became known Adama's Dream and the school was built.

The Coles sponsor a benefit concert each year to raise money toward its operation, with this year's offering December 12 with Steve Nystrup, a local musician who once toured with Fountainhead, and Maureen Wasik, a jazz singer.

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Singer-songwriter Gregory Douglass, shown here with Lisa Piccarillo and Monique Citro, has performed several times at Patti and Jim Cole's home.

The concerts have become a family affair.

"We love live music and we wanted our kids to be exposed to live music," Patti Cole said of Emily and Amanda, both now in college. "When they were little they'd stay for the first half of a concert and then listen to the rest from their bedrooms."

"We meet wonderful, interesting people, great people," she said. "I keep hearing how lovely it is to hear live music in an intimate space."

Paul and Barbara Martin have been attending concerts at The Gathering Room for the past few years.

"We wish that we had heard about it sooner," Paul Martin said. "We missed opportunities to hear good past performances, such as Alex DeGrassi, who is a world-class new age guitarist." He said he and his wife enjoy the comfortable, informal, friendly atmosphere and the casual interactions with the performers. "It is enjoyable to hear an artist play a song and then

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"The majority of their time, professional and private, is dedicated to helping others. They've taken a way to support independent artists and enjoy terrific music to much more."

– Jen Siskin

answer questions about it or discuss what inspired it," he said.

Martin said he considers the Coles to be patrons of the arts, especially musicians.

"They accomplish this by opening up their home as a place [where] musicians who are usually relatively young and developing can perform in a small, comfortable setting. There is always good (usually healthy) food and relaxed conversation before the music starts. Attendees often bring wine and food items to be shared as well. Depending on the artist and the number of people attending, the gatherings sometimes feel like a small concert, but sometimes feel more like an intimate musical party."

Sylvia Halkin has been attending the Coles' concerts almost since the beginning.

She said she enjoys having the opportunity to hear great musicians that she otherwise would not have known about and the Gathering Room's comfortable and friendly environment.

"The musicians are interested in and interactive with audience members during breaks, helping to make everyone feel welcome," she said.

She called the Coles "wonderful hosts, welcoming, generous [providing snacks and beverages and a very pleasant venue with a variety of seating options], laid-back and relaxed, but with great organizational skills to smoothly settle in the audience when it's time for performances to begin.

"I also really appreciate their choices of musicians," she said.

For Jen Siskin, who also has been going to The Gathering Room almost since the beginning, the concerts are "like having a front row seat to creative genius. Artists of the highest caliber have performed at the Gathering Room, from local singer-songwriters to world-renowned musicians. The experience is very intimate at house concerts. 'Up close and personal' describes the evening well."

Siskin praised the Coles for their generosity and desire to help others.

"Patti and Jim are special people with a level of altruism that exceeds the norm," she said. "The majority of their time, professional and private, is dedicated to helping others. They've taken a way to support independent artists and enjoy terrific music to much more. From donations collected for Glastonbury's food pantry to funds raised for charity building projects, they are making their lives and every performance count."

It's not always easy having 40 or 50 friends over for an evening. "There's preparations and getting ready and juggling it with regular work," Patti Cole said. "By the time the music starts I'm tired, but I always feel like it's so worthwhile." **GL**

To learn more about The Gathering room, contact Patti Cole at pattisivocole@gmail.com or 860-633-5057.

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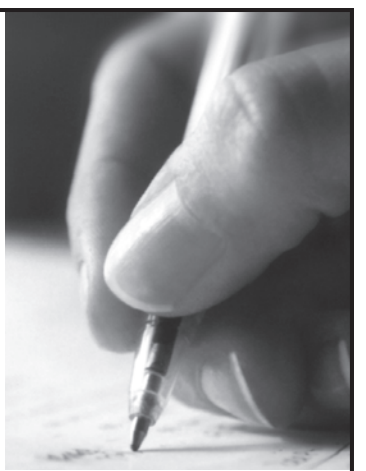

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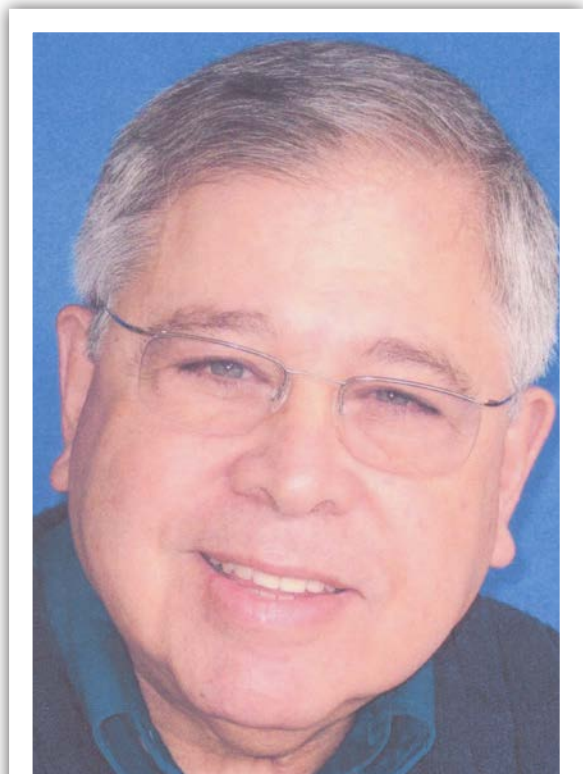

‘A true believer that peace is possible’

Former Hopewell principal Richard Lakin remembered

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

A phone call may not seem like a big deal, but for Stephen Kerlin, a simple phone call sums up the essence of his cousin Richard Lakin, who died October 27, two weeks after being wounded in a terrorist attack on a bus in Jerusalem.

“I have a developmentally challenged brother. He’s 71; he lives with me. My brother is stuck in the 1950s and 1960s in his way of looking at things. He had a birthday party in July. We hosted Richard’s brother Irwin. Richard called up my brother; my brother talked to him. It made my brother feel real good. It was a small thing, but for him, it meant a lot. That one to me expressed his philosophy to others, his humanity, his humility, his understanding,” said Kerlin, who lives in Worcester. “He was a very good person. The word in Yiddish is mensch. That’s the one word I’d use. I define mensch as faith, community and family. He met all three.”

Lakin, who was 76, was raised in Newton, Massachusetts, with a strong Jewish background.

“His father lived to be over 100. His father was very involved in the Conservative [Jewish] movement. His father was an officer of the Conservative movement; he raised money for Israeli bonds. There’s a history of family involvement. Richard took

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"He was a very good person. The word in Yiddish is mensch. That's the one word I'd use. I define mensch as faith, community and family. He met all three."

– Stephen Kerlin

it to the Aliyah step and went to Israel," he said.

Lakin and his wife, Karen, moved to Israel in 1984 with their two children, Manya and Micah. Lakin had served as principal at Hopewell Elementary School in Glastonbury for many years.

"Dick Lakin was the Mr. Rogers of the Glastonbury schools for he was gentle, soft-spoken, compassionate, and a passionate knowledgeable educator beloved by his staff, families and the community. During Dick's lifetime, he made a difference. He will be greatly missed but his legacy lives on in those he touched," said Jacqueline Jacoby, former superintendent of Glastonbury Public Schools.

Cathy Glynn, owned of Cathy's Nursery School, talked about Lakin's influence in her life.

"I have known Richard Lakin since the day they moved in next door to our family on Foote Road in South Glastonbury in 1968," she said. "I was 12 years old and they had a new baby they needed me to babysit for. I was thrilled! I babysat for their two children on a regular basis, through all of my years of middle school, high school and college. Richard was the principal at our neighborhood elementary school and Karen taught special ed at the Glastonbury High School. I went into teaching and opened my own school in 1978 partially because of his influence. He was a gentle, kind and caring man. He was a role model to me. Later on in life, I feel I became a better parent by watching his example as well. He and Karen were exemplary parents and educators. I always strived to be like them. This cruelty and savage act of terrorism is very hard for me to comprehend. All this man ever wanted was a peaceful world where people got along."

Lakin's influence reached even those who knew him less well.

"I knew Richard Lakin as the principal of Hopewell School when my two sons were students there, and I served often as a 'room mother.' He was a founder and first president of Glastonbury Summer Camps Association in 1969, with which I had some involvement. Camp King and Camp Together brought elementary school kids out from Hartford to learn and play together with Glastonbury kids. Although I did not know him very well, Dick always made me feel like a respected friend. I admired the way he made every child he talked with – and I'm sure that meant every single one of them in Hopewell school – feel that he or she was special," local photographer Duffy Schade said. "Richard worked his whole life to educate children and promote understanding between races. The brutality of the attack on him brings home the tragedy of irrational hatred."

Jeffrey Bodeau
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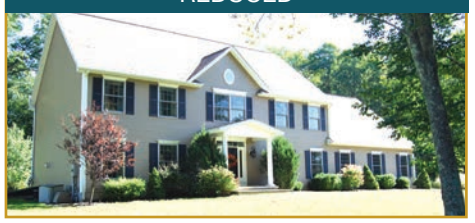

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“All his life in Israel, he promoted dialogue and respect, not hate, and he was killed by someone who didn’t respect and hated. … It really makes me cry; it’s very sad.”

– Ronny Siegel

‘Soft-spoken but very strong’

Lakin’s commitment to making the world a better place started early.

“He believed in it all his life. In college, he was a freedom fighter in the South,” Kerlin said. “He had a history of doing things for people. There’s not a more peaceful person than he was. Here was a person who was trying to get the Arabs and the Jews to bring them in a form of co-existence where they could work with each other, and that was one of his lifelong passions. His [wife] Karen was with him every step of the way.”

Ronny Siegel and her husband, Al, first got to know the Lakins when their children attended Solomon Schechter Day School in West Hartford. She also served with Lakin on the school’s education committee, which he chaired for several years.

“Because he was an educator in Glastonbury in a regular school, he brought his educational knowledge and his administration knowledge and his curriculum knowledge and his Jewishness together. He was the best education committee chair that I remember because he understood how to translate regular education values and implement them in a Jewish educational [setting]. He was a great advocate for the teachers. Private schools don’t have the same rules of dealing with staff. Because of where he came from, he was very supportive of the teachers and benefits and the process of evaluating them. He used his professional knowledge in a layperson way and helped make the school better,” said Siegel, a West Hartford resident, who is the Young Emissary Coordinator **a**t the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. “Because of his personality, he was soft-spoken and didn’t create any animosity. He was kind and he helped foster in the school, which is an institution, a human and warm and a sense of belonging, which is very hard to do. He was a real advocate for raising Jewish children and making Jewish education professional.”

While their children attended school together for several years, their friendship lasted beyond school days. Siegel, an Israeli, and her husband, an American, were able to offer assistance as the Lakins considered moving to Israel.

“We have a home in Israel and we have a home here, and we could help with both sides of the ocean, moving and adjusting. The whole process took a few years,” she remembered.

She said that included numerous discussions about why to make the move, how being Jewish is different in the two countries and other questions, which added another level to their relationship.

“He and his whole family were wonderful,” she said. “As a person, he was soft-spoken; he was kind; he was smart. When someone is

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LIFE Quotes

Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.
Og Mandino

soft-spoken, it can make you think they are not strong. He was soft-spoken but very strong. He was interested in you when you talked to him.

"He would make you feel he was really listening to you, he was really focused on you. You really felt he was hearing you and interested in what you had to say. He was very kind and loving, committed to his family and committed to his work, both in Glastonbury and the Jewish community and in Israel."

Siegel, who continued her relationship with the Lakins in Israel after their move, said that he lived what he believed.

"He didn't talk about it; he did it," she said. "All his life in Israel, he promoted dialogue and respect, not hate, and he was killed by someone who didn't respect and hated. ... It really makes me cry; it's very sad."

One thing he didn't have to get used to when he moved to Israel was the agricultural life, according to his cousin, who said relatives owned a farm in Spencer, Massachusetts, where all the grandchildren, including Lakin, would spend time.

"It was an attraction for our family," Kerlin said. "He would enjoy the animals. It was an intergenerational thing. It was a full holistic experience for everyone who came. They loved to come in the summer."

The farm helped forge strong relationships among the cousins and gave Lakin a taste of the farming life.

"When they moved to Israel, they were on a kibbutz. He would tell them about his farm experience. For most people, when they got on the kibbutz from various backgrounds, they had no idea of a farming background," Kerlin said.

Lakin and his wife settled in Jerusalem, where they taught English to Israeli and Palestinian students. In 2007, Lakin's book, "Teaching as an Act of Love: Thoughts and Recollections of a Former Teacher, Principal and Kid" was published. According to the description on Amazon, the book "is geared to teachers, principals, parents, and all those concerned with making schools more loving and effective for each child."

"The two of them, Richard and Karen, were soft, gentle, kind people," said Ruthan Wein, director of volunteer resources at Hebrew HealthCare in West Hartford. "Karen and I grew up together. Our families were friendly. Our families knew each other for many, many years. Karen is one year older than I am. I've known her my whole life. Interestingly enough, we both wound up in the Hartford area."

While Wein spent time with the Lakins in Israel and they at her home in Bloomfield, she fondly remembers an encounter from more than two decades ago when Richard Lakin was unexpectedly in the area.

"I remember one time I was walking Westfarms Mall, ... and I see Richard," she recalled. "I couldn't believe my eyes. I'm shrieking in the middle of the mall! He had come to tend to his parents who were very old and very ill."

She immediately invited Lakin for dinner.

"He came over and we just had the nicest evening talking about Israel and his work," she said. "He was a very quiet, gentle giant who had a lot of important things to say and a lot of deep feelings about his role in this world, about his role in Israel."

After the attack, Lakin was treated at Hadassah Ein Karem Hospital in Jerusalem, which Wein said had special significance because his wife's grandmother, Fannie Kratter, was known as Mrs. Hadassah.

"When I heard that Richard was in Hadassah Hospital, I thought Karen's grandma was watching over him and doing what she can. She was that active in Hadassah. What a wonderful woman, who embodied all the good things about being Jewish and doing good, kind things and just passed that down," Wein said.

While living in Connecticut, the Lakins were member of Beth Sholom B'nai Israel in Manchester.

Rabbi Richard Plavin saw Lakin on his last visit to Israel about a year ago, while he and his wife were eating at the popular Tal Bagel in German Colony.

"Dick came in and spotted us across the room and immediately came over and was his very ebullient self. We talked and he told us about all his projects, the tutoring he was doing working with youngsters, Israeli and Palestinian. He talked about the frustrations he faced but never in a tone that indicated that there was any thought of giving up," Plavin said. "He had a perseverance against all the forces that raged against reconciliation in Israel. He was a true believer that peace is possible and it has to be pursued."

Lakin, a grandfather of eight, was buried in Jerusalem October 28. Memorial services were held at Solomon Schechter Day School in West Hartford and at Congregation Kol Haverim in Glastonbury. **GL**

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"It was my honor"

Diane Northrop leaves board of finance after 42 years

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

There's no doubt that 1973 was a big year for news. The Vietnam War ended. Vice-president Spiro Agnew resigned. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam won the Nobel Peace Prize. The trial of the accused Watergate burglars started. George Steinbrenner bought the New York Yankees.

And here in Glastonbury, Diane Northrop, who would serve for more than four decades, was elected to the board of finance.

Northrop, who was honored during her last finance board meeting, sat down with Glastonbury LIFE to talk about her life and her service to her town.

Northrop grew up in Orange and attended school in New Haven, where she graduated from the old Hillhouse High School, an academic school in which all students were expected to attend college.

She was accepted to Pembroke College in Brown University and earned a degree in actuarial mathematics. After graduation, Northrop was hired for a position in the actuarial department of New England Mutual Life Insurance Company in Boston.

One day, she noticed that her coworkers in the actuarial department were high school, not college, graduates. She asked her supervisor why.

"He told me that actuaries are officers and officers are not women," she said.

She left the insurance industry, took teacher preparation courses and became a math teacher at Hall High School in West Hartford, where she taught until her retirement in 1992. At Hall High she met a young housemaster named Alan Bookman, now the superintendent of schools in Glastonbury.

After retiring from public school teaching, Northrop taught mathematics for nine years at Trinity College.

She moved to Glastonbury in 1967 and became involved in the community almost immediately, serving as chairman of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library board until she became the first – and to this day, the only – woman elected to the town's board of finance.

Northrop went on to serve seven six-year terms and was the board's chairman or vice-chairman for all but four of those 42 years.

"I don't really remember how it came about," she said of her decision to run for the board. "Someone was retiring."

Two seats, one held by a Democrat and one held by a Republican, are up for election every two years. By town charter there can be no more than three members from either party, leaving the board apolitical. And the town code specifies that a majority of members – not a

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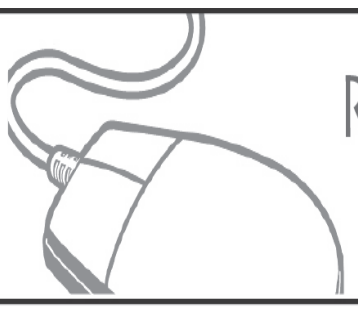

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majority of members present and voting – are needed to pass a motion. That means any decision the board makes requires four votes and is, by necessity, bipartisan.

Northrop, a Republican, recalled how the system was threatened when an unaffiliated voter ran for the board.

"If that person had been elected it would have politicized the board of finance," she said. Incumbent board members, wanting to avoid that situation, urged residents to vote for either the Democratic or Republican candidate and averted the problem.

Northrop smiled when asked to recall the most challenging issue she faced.

"In the old days the town hall was in what is now the police department building and the board of finance met in the basement," she said.

The town council would go to the finance board every year asking to transfer money to capital projects. Board members, with Northrop leading the way, refused to approve any transfers for capital projects unless the council instituted a capital improvements program.

"They eventually did it," she said. "We forced them into a capital improvements program in a bipartisan way. Now the program is touted."

She said she's also proud of the board's role over the years – along with Town Manager Richard J. Johnson – in the town earning a triple-A bond rating, the highest rating possible.

Northrop said she has been discouraged over the past few years by the finance board's decision to recommend cuts in the town's

Diane Northrop has left the board of finance after more than four decades, most of that time as chairman or vice-chairman.

Courtesy photo

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A Change to Embrace

David Killeen joins Embrace Home Loans as Loan Officer

Embrace Home Loans is pleased to announce that David Killeen has joined their Rocky Hill, Connecticut branch as a Loan Officer. Killeen brings with him 15 years of experience in retail mortgage lending. Prior to joining Embrace, Killeen was Associate Vice President for Springfield Teachers Credit Union. Starting first as Sales Account Manager, Killeen quickly assumed the role of Branch Sales Manager in charge of business development. Ranking consistently among the top 10 account executives in the Northeast, Killeen managed multiple branches, increasing sales and improving customer service for the credit union's members.

Asked why he chose to move to Embrace now, Killeen responded, "I was impressed with the professionalism and competitive nature of the employees. The training, support and infrastructure are in place to provide loan officers with the information they need in a timely fashion. Embrace has a culture of success where I know I can thrive."

Killeen is optimistic about current market conditions. "Slow steady growth, low interest rates and price stabilization makes this a good time for first time home buyers."

Killeen was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and grew up in Longmeadow, MA where her resides today.

David Killeen NMLS# 33251, is employed by Embrace Home Loans and is licensed in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

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school budget that she thought were too deep. "I voted against the cuts as recommended," she said. "I would have been willing to cut, but not to that extent."

Johnson and members of both parties have praised Northrop for her many years of service to the community.

"Certainly Diane has a lot of be proud of during her tenure," Johnson said. "She was always a very strong, consistent advocate for the long-term financial interests of the community. She never took shortcuts and always did the right things correctly. She was an advocate of our capital improvements program and has been involved in helping to share the financial well-being of the town. She's very highly regarded and has always been supportive and respectful to the town's professional staff."

School board chairman Susan Karp, a Republican who also has served as chairman of the town council, said she considers Northrop to be a friend and a mentor.

"Diane has led our community with grace, dignity and respect," she said. "It has been my privilege to work with her as we strive to make the best decisions for Glastonbury. She truly exemplifies the importance of careful, collaborative decision making, welcoming all opinions and considering the future implications. She has been an integral part of our success over the past four decades and a strong supporter of excellence in education.

"She was always a very strong, consistent advocate for the long-term financial interests of the community. She never took shortcuts and always did the right things correctly."

– Richard J. Johnson

Simply put, she loves our town and takes greats pride in our accomplishments. I congratulate her and thank her for her leadership, commitment and time."

Tom Gullotta, a Democrat town councilman, praised Northrop for her intelligence and heart.

"It is said the board of finance deals with facts – nothing but the facts – to parody the old Dragnet show on television. Such an approach, if taken literally, is the personification of Scrooge before the reformation in a community that can do better. Diane knew this and brought her unique intelligence and heart to every board of finance meeting. She knew that you could squeeze a project or operating budget to create additional false savings, but at what cost to the taxpayers in future years? Thus, in recent years on the education budget, in particular, Diane stood alone on the finance board in rejecting the magnitude of their proposed reductions. That took courage, but I would expect nothing else from her."

Gullotta added that he hopes Northrop will remain active in the town.

"I both hope and expect Diane will use the power of the pen and her voice to add her wisdom and heart to the decisions that will need to be made in the coming years. I know this – at an 'official' capacity, she will be sorely missed."

When asked to sum up her time on the board, Northrop said simply: "It was my honor," she said. GL

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

December Events

Campus Visits. Regional college and university representatives will discuss transfer opportunities. Info: Robert C. Turner, Jr. at 860-512-3328 or email rturner@manchestercc.edu.

University of Saint Joseph. 12/1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., SBMCF Building Rotunda

Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. 12/1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., SSC Cafeteria Atrium

Albertus Magnus College. 12/3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., SSC Cafeteria Atrium

Western New England University. 12/3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., SSC Cafeteria Atrium

University of New Haven. 12/7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., SSC Cafeteria Atrium

Eastern Connecticut State University. 12/10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., SSC Cafeteria Atrium

Classical Gourmet Dinner. 12/7, 6 p.m., Culinary Arts Center, SSC. Join us for this popular gourmet dinner and selected wines. The exquisite menu is prepared and presented by experienced students in MCC's award-winning culinary arts program and features a seven-course dinner from soup through dessert. A local wine expert will preside as the evening's sommelier and select different wines to accompany the meal's seven courses. View the menu and make a reservation at manchestercc.edu/meals.

Health Careers Admission Information Sessions. Students interested in being admitted into a Health Careers program must attend a mandatory information session before applying. Info: Theresa Blake at 860-512-2704 or email tblake@manchestercc.edu.

Respiratory Care. 12/8, 3 p.m., LRC B129

Radiologic Science. 12/8, 4 p.m., LRC B129

Dental Assistant. 12/8, 6 p.m., LRC B125

Occupational Therapy Assistant. 12/8, 7 p.m., LRC B125

***À la carte* at MCC.** 12/8, 5:30 - 7 p.m., GPA Community Commons. This Admissions and Financial Aid Information Session is designed for you to learn more about the college, the enrollment process, programs and services offered, and to take a brief campus tour. Info: Elijah A. Oliver at 860-512-3218 or email eoliver@manchestercc.edu.

Precision Manufacturing Program Information Session. 12/9, 3 p.m., Learning Resource Center, B144. Find out about non-credit and credit-bearing opportunities. Info: Nia Mitchell at 860-512-2647 or email nmitchell@manchestercc.edu.

International Film Series: *'71* (United Kingdom). 12/11, 7 p.m., SBMCF Auditorium. A young British soldier is accidentally abandoned by his unit following a terrifying riot on the streets of Belfast in 1971. 99 mins. Drama. English. R. Info: Evelyn Angry-Smith at 860-512-2874, email eangry-smith@manchestercc.edu or visit libguides.manchestercc.edu/mccifs.

Winter Arts Festival. 12/18, 6 p.m., SBMCF Auditorium. The Winter Arts Festival features the opening of the Student Art Exhibition and musical and instrumental performances by MCC's choral, chamber and jazz ensembles. Refreshments will be served. Info: Susan Classen-Sullivan at 860-512-2693 or email sclassen-sullivan@manchestercc.edu.

All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted, and are subject to change without notice. For current information or notices of cancellation, click on "View All Events" on MCC's web site: www.manchestercc.edu.

12/2015

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First and Last Tavern opens

New life for former Parma and Hanafin's site

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

The fifth First and Last Tavern has opened in the former Parma building on Rankin Road.

The restaurant's opening earlier this month was the culmination of months of planning and extensive renovations to the building.

"It's the same footprint, but we removed the roof and totally gutted the inside," said Russell Nemarich, who owns the restaurant with his brothers, Curtis and Richard.

Anyone who remembers the Parma or Hanafin's Pub will be amazed at the transformation, which includes new ceilings, walls and floors and completely revamped floor plan.

The restrooms have been moved to the back of the building. There's a large U-shaped bar with wall-mounted televisions to the left of the main

Photo by Nancy Thompson

Russell Nemarich has overseen the creation of the new First and Last Tavern on Rankin Road.

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entrance and booths and tables that can seat about 120 people to the right. The kitchen is completely new and includes ovens that will turn out traditional First and Last pizzas. "Customers will feel like they have a connection to the kitchen," Nemarich said of the partial wall between the kitchen and the dining area.

This wasn't the first for the family-owned group of restaurants, and most likely won't be the last.

First and Last taverns trace their history to 1936, when the DePasquale family opened a restaurant on Maple Avenue in Hartford's Little Italy.

When the DePasquales, who had been friends with the Nemarich family for many years, opened a restaurant in Avon, they hired Russell Nemarich's brothers as waiters. Before long, the DePasquales asked Curtis and Richard to manage, and later run, the restaurant, and eventually the brothers bought the business.

Next, the DePasquales opened a First and Last Tavern on Main Street in Middletown with their friends, members of the Bellobuono family, who eventually took over responsibility for running it.

Russell joined his brothers to open a First and Last Tavern on Cooke Street in Plainville seven years ago.

"We were three close families, and we all grew up together," Russell said. "It's not like they're just running around franchising restaurants."

He said the local restaurant's menu is the same as the Plainville First and Last Tavern.

Highlights include a raw bar, soups, wings and bruschetta appetizers, salads such as antipasto and a variety of traditional and non-traditional combinations, all available with chicken, Buffalo chicken, shrimp or fish of the day, Black Angus beef burgers, panini, sandwiches, wraps and grinders, pasta entrees, dinners such as grilled hanger steak and shrimp and scallop risotto, gluten-free items, and a variety of house-made desserts including cannoli, tiramisu and white chocolate cheesecake with strawberry sauce.

The Nemarich brothers looked for a site in Glastonbury for years.

"We had our eye on this area for a long time," Russell said. "Location is important. We looked at this building but thought it needed too much work."

They changed their minds and signed a lease with the owner, Lorenzo DiClemente, who had bought the building from Luigi and John Peluso when the Parma closed five years ago. DiClemente owns Oggi hair salon and was the owner of the former Tango restaurant on the north end of Main Street.

The brothers said they chose Glastonbury for a number of reasons.

"We have been looking to expand to Glastonbury for many years now," Curtis said. "First, we think it fits our demographic perfectly. Second, we believe First and Last Tavern has excellent brand recognition in Glastonbury. And third, we think the town has a nice mix of young professionals and more established people, and that First and Last Tavern aptly serves that customer base."

"First, we think it fits our demographic perfectly. Second, we believe First and Last Tavern has excellent brand recognition in Glastonbury. And third, we think the town has a nice mix of young professionals and more established people, and that First and Last Tavern aptly serves that customer base."

– Curtis Nemarich

Richard added, "We base our location selection on certain criteria, such as population, highway access, income, business and residential growth in the town, as well as the general feel for the town. We feel that Glastonbury has the right combination of factors, especially the right feel."

They also share an excitement about their new endeavor.

Curtis said he likes the idea that the restaurant is considerably smaller and more intimate than their restaurants in Plainville and Avon.

"We are excited to have found a great location that is owned by someone with strong ties and commitment to the area in Lorenzo DiClemente," he added. "He has been very accommodating and encouraging toward us in the renovation of his building. Lastly, Glastonbury is an historic town with an upbeat vibe and booming retail sector. We were lucky to have found this location."

Russell, who works in what restaurant people call "the front of the house," said he's excited that he will be meeting a lot of new people.

"It's great that we found a place in this town," he said, adding that it has undergone tremendous growth both in population and in the number of businesses. "It's a great town, and the community is already supporting us. It's a great community." GL

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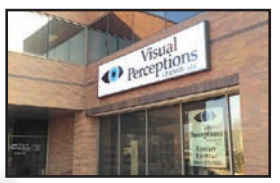

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Nancy Thompson photo

Paul David has owned The Flower District for 10 years. He's been described as "a New York florist on a Connecticut budget."

Business is blooming for Paul David

Flower shop celebrates 10 years

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

Paul David grew up on a dairy farm in Litchfield County. He has a degree in advertising and marketing. What is he doing with a flower shop behind Daybreak Coffee?

He's celebrating his shop's 10th anniversary, doing very well, and enjoying every minute of it.

He didn't know much about flowers until a friend offered him a summer job at his new flower shop in Agawam, Massachusetts. He took to it so naturally that the friend offered

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him a full-time job. David didn't want to deal with the long commute on a long-term basis. He knew he wanted to be a flower designer, so he put an ad in a local newspaper. At first there were no responses. He took a job as a retail manager in a clothing store, but never gave up on his dream.

A couple of months later, he heard from John and Nancy Valentine, owners of a florist in Marlborough. He told them he had no experience but was willing to learn, and they agreed to take him on. He continued to work his full-time job and spent evenings and weekends at the shop. After two weeks, they offered him a full-time position. "They saw my potential," David said.

When they decided to sell the business, they offered it to him, but at that time he was living in West Hartford and had a young child, so he declined the offer.

He worked in three other retail florists and then decided to get out of the business altogether.

That lasted until 2005, when he decided to buy the Glastonbury Florist. The deal didn't work out because the building was being sold and the new developer didn't want him to have the florist shop's space.

"Paul creates unique and creative arrangements that suit the occasion – his work is never cookie cutter. He truly listens to what his clients are saying and strives to fulfill their expectations. Paul is truly accommodating and a pleasure to work with."

– Pandy Wohler

In November of 2005, he opened The Flower District in Glen Lochen and stayed there until the recession hit three years later. He had several high-end clients, including the Tiffany's store at Westfarms Mall, but the recession hit everyone and the business suffered.

David looked for another spot for his shop and heard about a shoe repair shop in the building that houses Daybreak Coffee Roasters and some other businesses.

"I heard this space was available and put a piece of paper on the door saying I was interested in it," he said. At 425 square feet, it was significantly smaller than his Glen Lochen shop, but he offered to gut the interior and redo it to suit his business needs.

"I'm going on my seventh year here," he said. "It's small and tucked in the back, but I get more traffic here than I had in Glen Lochen, between the library, the coffee shop, the hair salon and the trails out back."

In 2005, the town had seven florist shops; now there are two.

David said he runs a full-service business with one exception.

"I can pretty much get anything any time," he said. "The only thing I don't do is balloons." When pressed, he acknowledged that he will do special orders with balloons, but there are none in the shop.

"We deliver. We do everyday arrangements in the Greater Hartford area, and we do weddings and events," he said. "I pretty much go anywhere."

He's done weddings and special gatherings in New York and throughout New England, and as far away as South Carolina.

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He's proud that his business is different.

"We're not your typical shop," he said, adding that he specializes in what he called an urban/English garden style. "I've been told that I'm a New York florist on a Connecticut budget. We'll do anything someone wants. My clientele wants something you can't get at the grocery store. We have a unique style and unique flowers."

He said he likes doing glass vase arrangements that are different, using branches or tropical foliage or maybe accents such as lemon slices, cranberries, moss or other fruits.

David isn't part of the FTD or Telaflora networks, but he's happy to take orders from out of state. "It's a better deal for the client and the shop," he said. "They're getting 100 percent value for the cost of their arrangement."

He said he especially enjoys the creative part of the business.

"For weddings and events we do the planning from the very beginning," he said. "I talk with the bride and create an atmosphere for her special day."

"I can pretty much get anything any time."
– Paul David

Over the years, David has built up a dedicated following.

Pandy Wohler met David 10 years ago as he was getting ready to leave the Glen Lochen store.

"He could not have been more accommodating and went out of his way to ensure my needs were met," Wohler said. "I left knowing I had found my new florist. Paul has created floral arrangements for dinner parties and holiday celebrations in our home, for celebratory gifts and for funerals – all beautifully executed and to my specifications. Our daughter was married in October and we immediately turned to Paul for all our floral needs. As we left our initial planning meeting with Paul, my daughter commented that he was so easy to work with. He listened to her and made suggestions and we left knowing that he 'got it'.

Wohler said she's impressed with David's creativity. "Paul creates unique and creative arrangements that suit the occasion – his work is never cookie cutter," she said. "He truly listens to what his clients are saying and strives to fulfill their expectations. Paul is truly accommodating and a pleasure to work with. I once needed an arrangement delivered quickly and ran into him as he was on his way to make a delivery. He took my order right there in the parking lot and delivered as requested."

Melissa Arsenault has been doing business with David and The Flower District since 2009.

She said she likes his creativity and the fact that he can work with any budget.

"He's on par design-wise with any super high-end New York or Boston florist," she said. "If I told him I wanted a giraffe made of flowers he wouldn't call me crazy. He'd imagine how to do it and say 'ok we're on'! There is nothing he cannot do. He's a genius."

Arsenault said she wishes people understood how much better flowers from a florist are than flowers from supermarkets.

"It's a shame in any town, especially a town like Glastonbury, that florists find it difficult to survive," she said. "People do not understand that the flowers in the grocery stores aren't directly from the grower, the ones from The Flower District are. They last twice as long as the ones from the grocery stores because they were picked two days prior, not two weeks ago."

Nicole Herlands met David when she was looking for a florist to help with her son's Bar Mitzvah.

"He worked with me to create masculine but festive centerpieces as well as arrangements for the temple," she said. That was five years ago now. I have been doing business with the Flower District ever since. I have used his talents for proms, birthdays, funerals, get wells, and staff appreciation arrangements. I also like to stop in and just pick up fresh cut flowers for myself. He is friendly and professional. I look forward to enjoying many more orders with the Flower District in the years to come." GL

The Flower District, at 2377 Main Street in the rear of Daybreak Coffee Roasters, is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1. To learn more, call 860-633-1965 or visit theflowerdistrict.com.

Master Kwangsoon Park and Master Banny Kim pose with their daughter, Priscilla, outside their Olympic Taekwondo Academy of Glastonbury on the New London Turnpike in South Glastonbury.

Courtesy photo

'A true knack for bringing out strengths'

Husband and wife open new taekwondo academy

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

The husband-and-wife team behind Olympic Taekwondo Academy of Glastonbury are living out their dream.

Kwangsoon Park and Banny Kim, both from South Korea, have earned the designation of "master" as well as their fifth-degree black belts.

Park holds a Bachelor's degree in physical education from Chung Cheong University in South Korea as well as certificates in sports therapy and special sports education. He was a member of World Taekwondo Cultural Ambassador's

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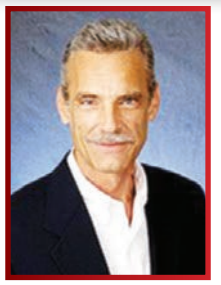

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Master Kwangsoon Park and his wife, Master Banny Kim, run the new Olympic Taekwondo Academy of Glastonbury. They are both fifth-degree black belts.

Courtesy photo

Demonstration Team and the World Tour Taekwondo Demonstration and toured in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and throughout the United States.

Kim holds a Bachelor's degree in physical education from Suwon Women's University in South Korea. She was a member of the Korean Demonstration Team and has performed many demonstrations around the world. She specializes in rhythmic taekwondo and cardio kickboxing.

Park has wanted to teach taekwondo since he began taking lessons as a boy, when he literally had a dream one night about becoming a teacher.

"When I was seven years old, when I was learning taekwondo, I [had] a dream to be a teacher, an instructor, because when I learn from my teacher, I feel I have a passion," he said.

He been teaching for almost 10 years, and came to the United States six years ago. They opened the local academy in June.

Taekwondo is a martial arts technique from Korea. Each part of the name has meaning, Park said.

"There's three words. 'Tae' means kicking techniques. 'Kwon' means hands techniques. 'Do' means respect. We're teaching technique in the right way of the respect," he said.

Classes are held for all levels and ages, starting with "Little Tigers," classes for three and four year olds.

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"We're teaching for the kids just basic focus and confidence, and then they need to get fun too, and they get respect," he said. "If they don't have any confidence and focus, they cannot have good kicking, good punching, anything. First, they have to get good confidence. If they have enough confidence, they will get great technique."

He offers lots of encouragement and praise, and a good dose of love.

"If I don't love them, if I don't care, it's just exercising. Because I love them, they will know it. Kids know everything. They feel everything. [They know whether] he love me or not. We need to love people if we're going to be connected. I believe especially children can be changed through taekwondo. If they change, they will change the world. That is kind of the goal. The little, small goal is [through the] Glastonbury student, then the Connecticut student, then American students, then in the world," Park said.

The school also offers classes for teens and adults.

"Martial arts is not just for kids," he said. "For adults, when they come to take the class, at the beginning they already look so tired. I can feel it; they have a lot of stress," he said. "I'm teaching for the adult controlling the mind. When you're punching, kicking, if you didn't calm down, you're going to miss the target. If you want to get target directly, you have to calm down and concentrate."

All of the instructors at Olympic Taekwondo Academy have earned their fifth-degree black belt.

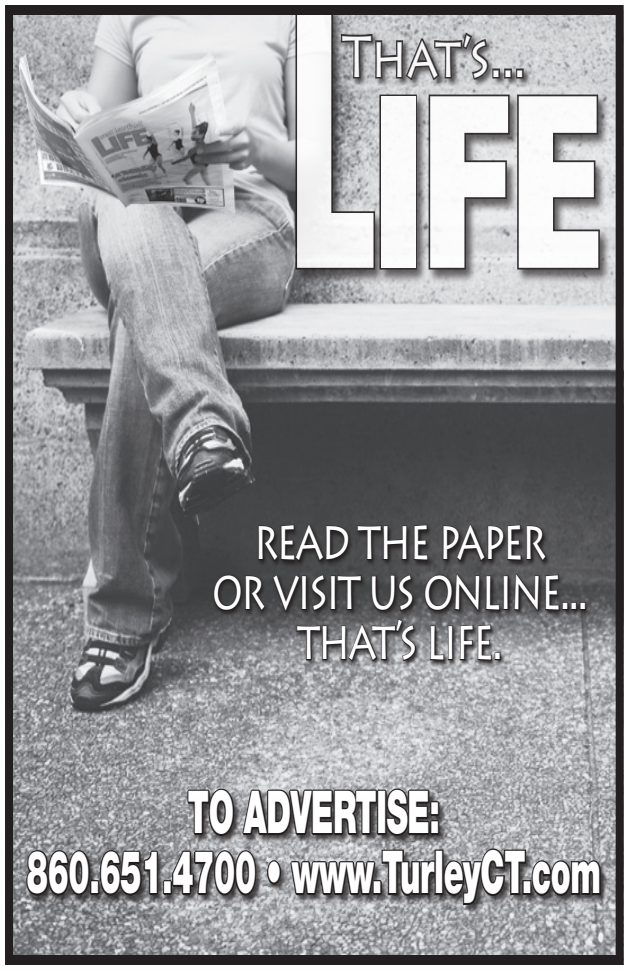
Lindsay Jankowski's four-year-old twins, Avery and Cooper, have been taking classes for several months.

"I was impressed with Olympic Taekwondo from the minute I walked through the door. Master Soon and Master Banny are so wonderful with all of the children that they teach. You can tell immediately that they love what they do. Their compassion, kindness, humor and skill is evident in how they teach their classes as well as in their interactions with the children. Avery and Cooper absolutely love Taekwondo. They would go every day if they could," said Jankowski, a Glastonbury resident. "I can't recommend Olympic Taekwondo enough. Master Soon and Master Banny have an incredible program. They have a true knack for bringing out strengths in all of the children. I have seen extremely shy kids walk into class and within weeks they have gained a level of self-respect and confidence that was not there before starting Taekwondo. When class ends, all of the children leave with a wonderful sense of pride in what they just accomplished." **GL**

They have a true knack for bringing out strengths in all of the children. I have seen extremely shy kids walk into class and within weeks they have gained a level of self-respect and confidence that was not there before starting Taekwondo."

–Lindsay Jankowski

Olympic Taekwondo Academy of Glastonbury is in Buck's Corner Plaza, 2249 New London Turnpike, South Glastonbury, 860-430-4474. Learn more at olympictaekwondo-academy.com or facebook.com/glastonburyota.



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LIFE *in the kitchen* with Chad Lin

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

Nancy Thompson photo

Chad Lin has traveled far from his native Hong Kong, to New York, Florida and Louisiana on his way to Sakura Garden here in Glastonbury. It was a journey in which he learned a lot, about food and life.

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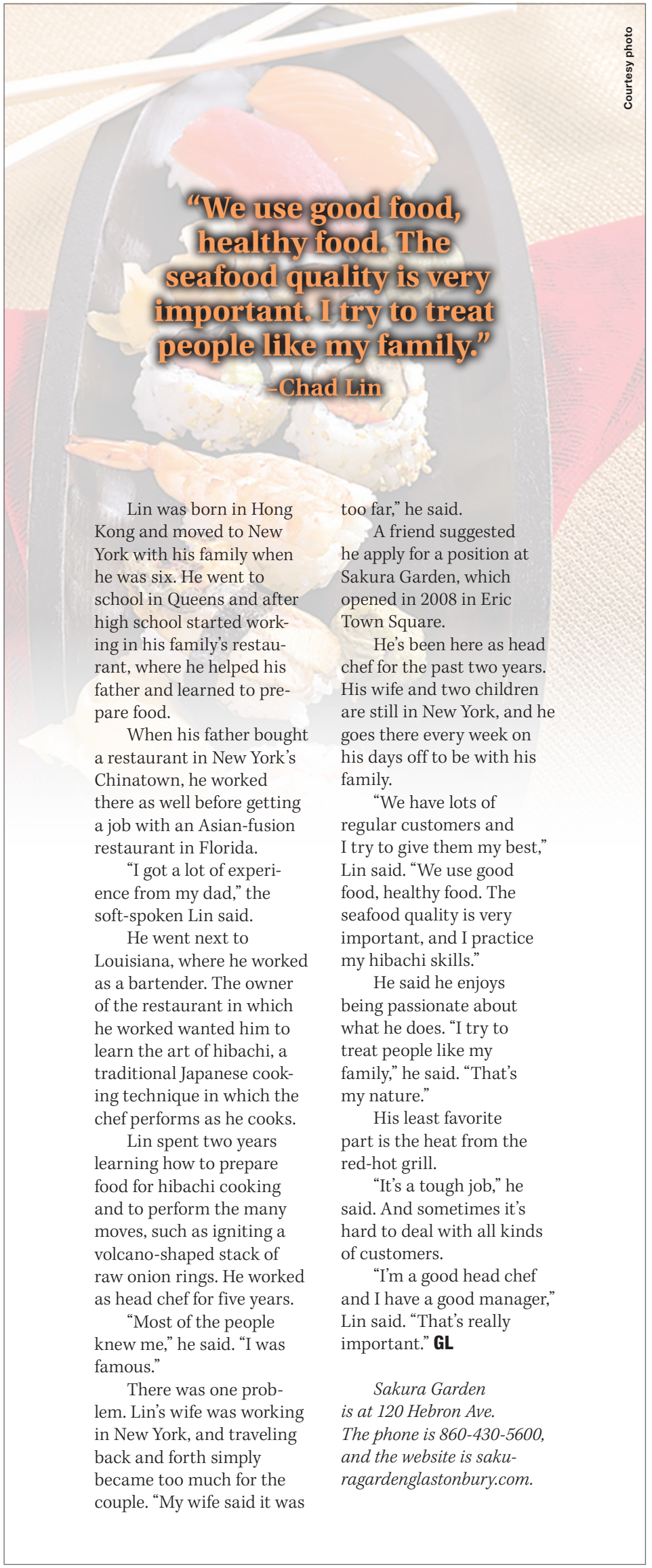

Courtesy photo

"We use good food, healthy food. The seafood quality is very important. I try to treat people like my family."

–Chad Lin

Lin was born in Hong Kong and moved to New York with his family when he was six. He went to school in Queens and after high school started working in his family's restaurant, where he helped his father and learned to prepare food.

When his father bought a restaurant in New York's Chinatown, he worked there as well before getting a job with an Asian-fusion restaurant in Florida.

"I got a lot of experience from my dad," the soft-spoken Lin said.

He went next to Louisiana, where he worked as a bartender. The owner of the restaurant in which he worked wanted him to learn the art of hibachi, a traditional Japanese cooking technique in which the chef performs as he cooks.

Lin spent two years learning how to prepare food for hibachi cooking and to perform the many moves, such as igniting a volcano-shaped stack of raw onion rings. He worked as head chef for five years.

"Most of the people knew me," he said. "I was famous."

There was one problem. Lin's wife was working in New York, and traveling back and forth simply became too much for the couple. "My wife said it was too far," he said.

A friend suggested he apply for a position at Sakura Garden, which opened in 2008 in Eric Town Square.

He's been here as head chef for the past two years. His wife and two children are still in New York, and he goes there every week on his days off to be with his family.

"We have lots of regular customers and I try to give them my best," Lin said. "We use good food, healthy food. The seafood quality is very important, and I practice my hibachi skills."

He said he enjoys being passionate about what he does. "I try to treat people like my family," he said. "That's my nature."

His least favorite part is the heat from the red-hot grill.

"It's a tough job," he said. And sometimes it's hard to deal with all kinds of customers.

"I'm a good head chef and I have a good manager," Lin said. "That's really important." **GL**

Sakura Garden is at 120 Hebron Ave. The phone is 860-430-5600, and the website is sakuragardenglastonbury.com.

"People told us we were too young to move here, but we absolutely love it."

Carol Simpson, Resident

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BEST OF Hartford MAGAZINE 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

LIFE Quotes

A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others.
Ayn Rand

10 questions for Chad Lin

1. What's your "secret weapon" ingredient?
Salt and pepper.

2. What's your least favorite food?
Steak.

3. What is the one cooking technique everyone should know how to do?
Everyone should have passion.

4. If you could take any celebrity chef out to dinner, who would it be and where would you take them?
I'd bring Gordon Ramsay here, to Sakura.

5. What is your favorite cookbook of all time?
Nobu: The Cookbook, by Nobuyuki Matsuhisa.

6. If you weren't a chef, what profession would you be?
I don't know. I've always wanted to be a chef.

7. What spice or herb best describes your personality?
Sugar and chili powder. I am sweet and hot.

8. What's your "go to" staple/recipe/dish?
Soy sauce, garlic, salt and pepper.

9. What do you like to cook when having guests to your home?
Steak [because guests enjoy it.]

10. It's your last meal on earth. What's on your plate?
Scallops.

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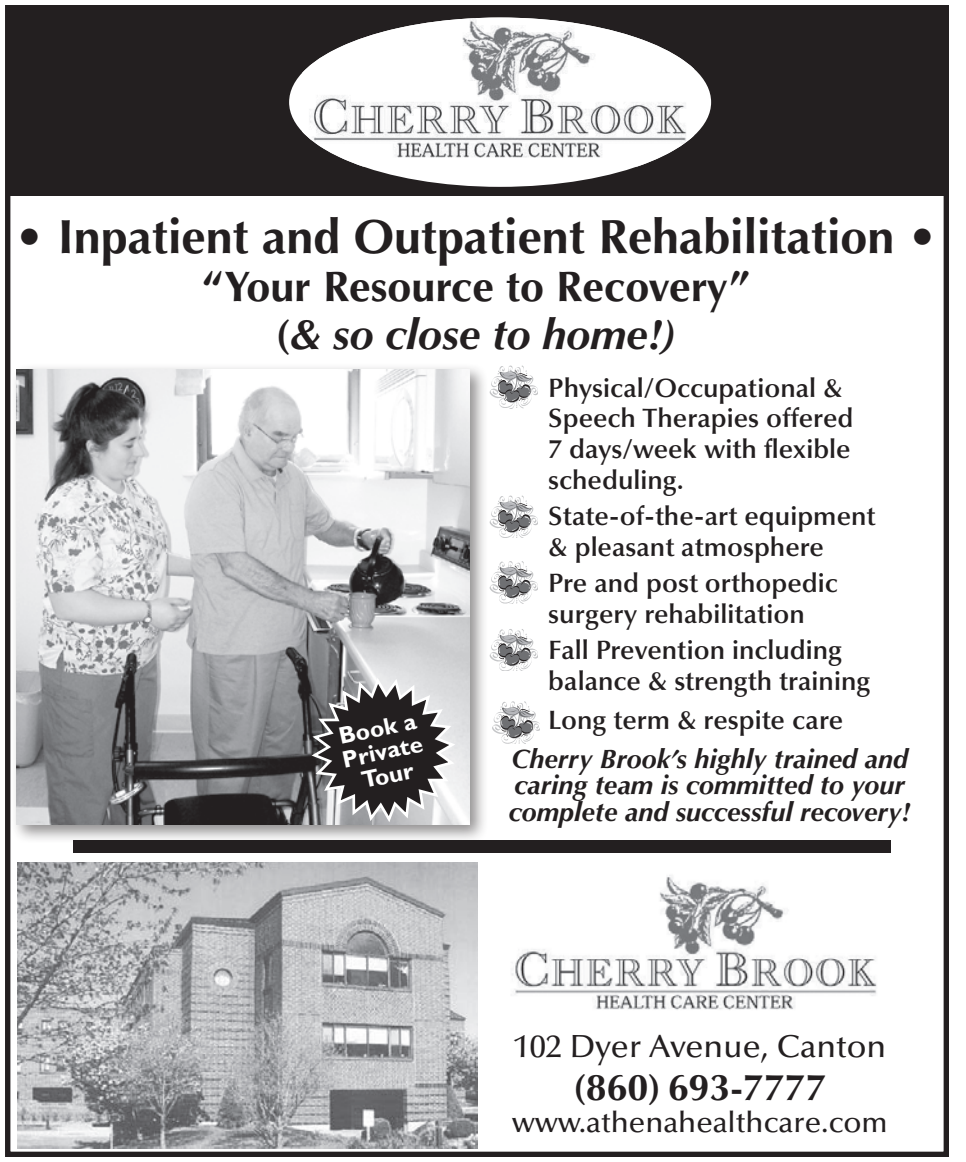
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LIFE
student of the month

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Sophia Giliberto has worked hard to raise cancer awareness among students and staff at Smith Middle School by organizing a "wear pink" day in October, which was breast cancer awareness month.

She worked with Gina Gottlieb, the school nurse and promoted the project with signs and announcements.

"It was just amazing to see staff and students in the pink, particularly the boys here who wholly supported this endeavor with pink ties, socks and shirts," said Donna Schilke, the school's principal. "It was such a unifiying day at SMS, and all for a good cause that touches so many of our lives." GL

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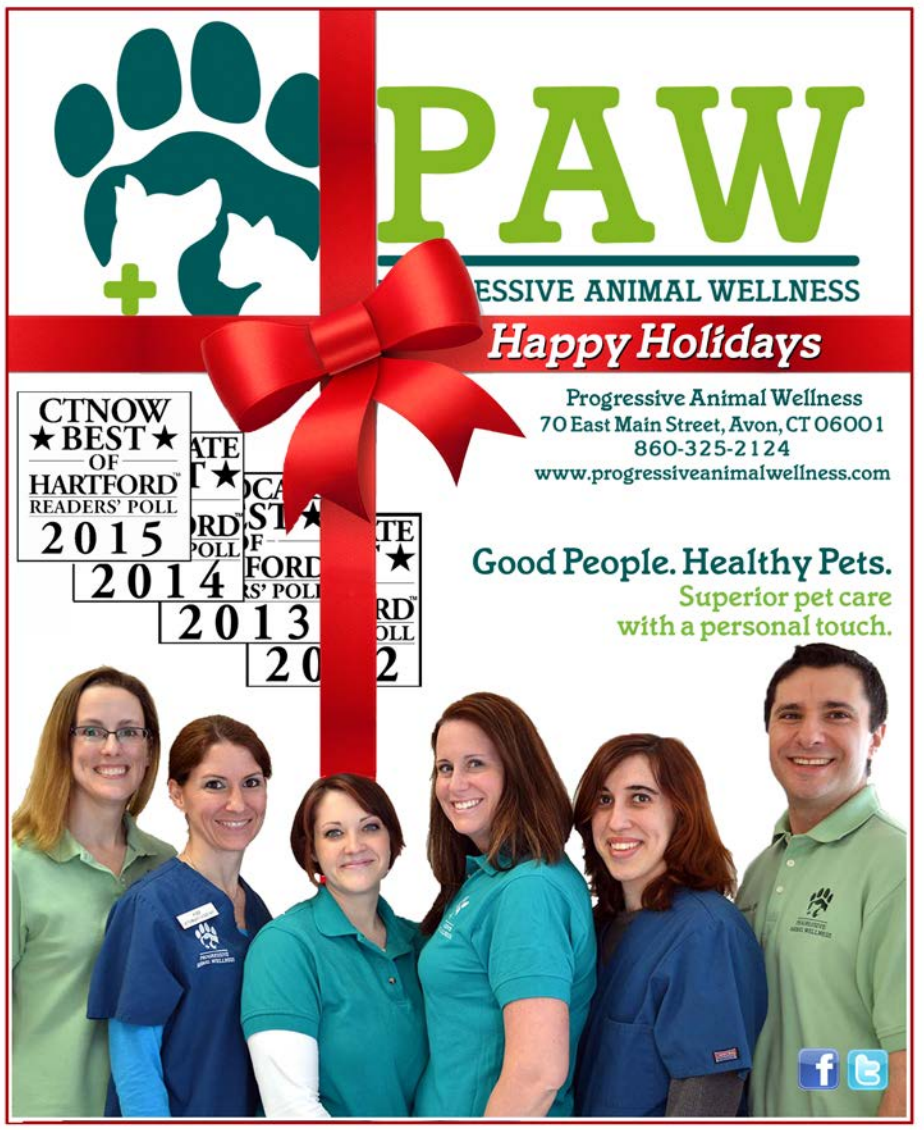

holiday
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HOLIDAY SPIRIT

‘To make them feel good, at least for one day’

Volunteers make holiday meals special

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

For most people, spending the holidays with family or friends is a given. Thanks to volunteers, even those undergoing challenging times have the opportunity to enjoy a special meal on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

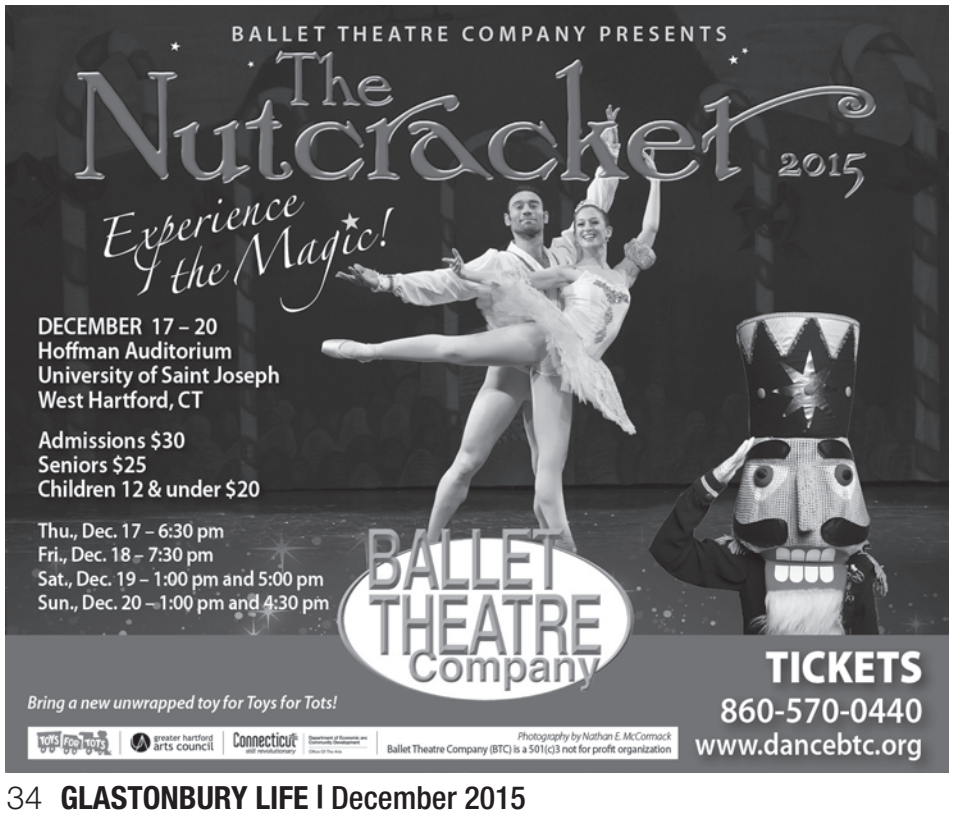
Each year, Hands On Hartford offers a Thanksgiving meal at Christ Church Cathedral and a Christmas meal at South Congregational Church, both in Hartford.

One of the first people a guest sees at the meals is longtime volunteer Phil Knecht of Wethersfield.

“I’m like a maître d’ in a restaurant. I try to make them feel welcome,” said Knecht, who turned 87 in November and volunteers for Hands On Hartford year-round. “It’s [about] meeting people that need help and giving them a day to enjoy. I particularly feel very sad when I see children coming to the [Thanksgiving] breakfast.”

Many of the Hands On Hartford

For those who volunteer serving up holiday meals, their efforts are about much more than putting food on the table.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Holiday LIFE

volunteers have been participating for years, such as Don Goodman of Canton, who's been volunteering for about 20 years.

"I'd heard about the Thanksgiving meal and decided to show up and see if I can help. I didn't know what to bring. I'd never been to a soup kitchen. I brought a whipped cream pie. I wasn't thinking to put it in slices, to put it on plates. It was exactly the wrong type of pie to buy. I started learning a lot from my first trip," said Goodman, who has served on nonprofit boards.

Since then, he has been a sponsor for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter meals that Hands On Hartford organizes and hosts for homeless and low-income working individuals and families.

Each year, Goodman said he's tried to find ways to make the meal better.

"One year, a friend of mine gave me some salads. I thought, 'My God, they've never had salad.' For the past 15 years, they've had salads. I like iced tea, but I also like soda, so now we have an entire soda bar. Little by little, we've added different things. We've added candy; we started putting out bowls of fresh fruit," he said.

Several years ago, they added packaged treats, such as Ring Dings and Twinkies, and now give away about 1,000 at the meal. They've also added bags of chips and popcorn for the guests to take home. Last year, 278 guests enjoyed the Christmas Day meal, each leaving with a gift bag.

Goodman and his family coordinate with Chef Kim Bunton to provide side dishes and extras, and also bring volunteers to the events. He credits his wife, Annie Kelleher, for her assistance with the preparation.

"We prepare veggies for 250 people. Annie has helped me do the shopping. She helps me do the prep. She gets up at 2 in the morning to help me prep the vegetables. She came up with one of the favorites, candied yams with cherries. I couldn't have done it without her help and her support. It doesn't happen without her contribution," said Goodman, who also brought his children to volunteer at the meals, starting when they were young.

"Over 60 to 70 major holidays, I've never seen any people get into arguments. I've never seen any sort of dispute. I've never seen any sort of conflict during any of our holiday meals. People genuinely try to be nice to the people next to them."

– Don Goodman

They're now adults and have been volunteering for 19 years in a row.

"I have been very thankful to have my kids participate. I have always believed in trying to make the world a better place, in loving our brothers and our sisters. I am endlessly grateful for the opportunity I had to participate. I think I've had much more than I've given over the years," said Goodman, who is a financial advisor with Wells Fargo and splits his time between Connecticut and Hawaii. "I grew up in the ghetto of Brooklyn. My mom was a single mom. We lived in a tenement; there were rats, roaches and we never had enough food. I was always very influenced by my upbringing. This is a way of giving thanks for the good fortune that's come to me."

Goodman said he's been surprised by how big the crowds have gotten through the years.

One thing that hasn't changed, though, is the kindness that people show one another.

"Over 60 to 70 major holidays, I've never seen any people get into arguments. I've never seen any sort of dispute. I've never seen any sort of conflict during any of our holiday meals. People genuinely try to be nice to the people next to them. It's a warm family environment where everyone tries to care for other people," he said. "Every year, we try to make the holiday better than the one before."

Knecht has a simple goal for everyone he meets at the meals: "To make them feel good, at least for one day," Knecht said. "It gives them hope that tomorrow will be a better day."

For more information visit handsonhartford.org or email info@handsonhartford.org. GL

Hands On Hartford is a human services agency focused on support to the Hartford community in the areas of food, housing and economic security, while providing meaningful volunteer opportunities. They operate a soup kitchen, a food pantry, provide weekend meals for children and seniors, and provide housing support through a supportive housing program and homelessness prevention assistance. They also organize community service projects at their own programs and across the city of Hartford. Last year, they involved 3,300 volunteers in performing more than 30,000 hours of service.

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Holiday traditions

Families continue the customs of their native land

by Lynn Woike
LIFE Staff

Keeping cultural traditions alive when families move to a different culture or town can make the transition easier.

"Sharing holidays and traditions with each other, and learning and sharing a little about each other allows for understanding and a realization we are more alike than different. This cultural acceptance is enriching and creates the global community of West Hartford," said Bepsie Perry, the initiative director for Hello! West Hartford, a local nonprofit organization that connects the community through culture

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Holiday LIFE

Andrey Kaplun shows off some of the 12 dishes he prepares for the traditional Christmas Eve dinner he grew up with in the Ukraine.

and language.

This year, Hello! West Hartford plans to have its fifth cultural celebration with members of the community celebrating and sharing their traditions, holidays, music, food, culture, geography and language.

"From children to adults, pride is shown when sharing the places of our heritage," Perry said, noting that previous events have drawn more than 500 people.

Several locals described the traditions they grew up with in their native lands.

St. Nicholas Day, celebrated December 6, is "a huge day for Switzerland," according to Simone Rendon Lutz. Born in Korea, she was adopted by a Swiss family and was raised there before coming to the United States in 1988.

The West Hartford resident explained, "The story is that he visits children with his helper, a donkey, and checks up on how the children were behaving all year. If they were good, they were left a bag of nuts, clementines and chocolates."

Typically, each town organized an event marking St. Nicholas' arrival. Children would come forward, recite a poem or sing a song and be given goodies.

Although he was dressed up to look a bit like Santa, he was clearly St. Nick.

Children were told the gifts left under the tree on Christmas were from the Baby Jesus, Lutz said.

Swiss tradition is to celebrate the four weeks of Advent. She recalls an evergreen wreath with four candles, and the family gathering to light the appropriate number of candles and singing each of the Sundays.

Two traditional cookies served during December are cinnamon stars known as zimtsterne, and spritzbuben or "Cheeky Boy," a buttery sandwich cookie with holes cut out for eyes and a mouth that is filled with jam.

She has continued the traditions, passing them on to her two children.

Now that she has begun researching her Korean heritage, Lutz found that the most important of the traditional holidays is the Korean New Year, typically in February, based on the lunar calendar. It coincides with the Chinese New Year, she said.

"It's very important because on that day, every Korean turns one day older, regardless of when their birthday is."

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Holiday LIFE

On that day, you honor your ancestors, visiting cemeteries and bowing before their graves, Lutz said. She celebrates the day with traditional foods, including a rice cake soup where the rice cakes are shaped like coins for prosperity.

Traditional foods are also Andrey Kaplun's strongest connection to his life in the Ukraine.

The recipes for stuffed cabbage, pierogi and other dishes at Delicacy Market in West Hartford and the events it caters all come from his grandmother's "little book."

"My grandmother was a great chef," he said.

One of Kaplun's Christmas traditions is making a sweet dessert from whole wheat, walnuts, poppy seed paste, honey and raisins called kutya.

It is one of the 12 traditional dishes that is prepared for Christmas Eve dinner.

While the foods vary by region, it typically includes borsht, stuffed cabbage, fish, marinated mushrooms and pierogi. Because his mother was Jewish, there were also potato latkes.

He makes the same dishes every year.

By being both Ukrainian and Christian, he said he grew up celebrating "the old calendar and the new calendar," explaining, "We celebrated Christmas on December 25 and on January 7, and we celebrated New Years on December 31 and then we celebrated it on the 14th of January."

He was 19 years old when he came here, and in the 26 years since, Kaplun said he's stopped following the old calendar, but that the custom continues in areas where larger groups settled, such as New Britain and Stamford.

One tradition he recalls from the old country was going house to house on Christmas. People would sing and be invited in for food and drinks, then walk to the next house and the next, repeating the singing, eating and drinking until morning, he said.

Back in Sicily, before going to midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, Vito Cortese would gather around a bonfire in the middle of the street and celebrate with the rest of the neighborhood.

"You can't do that here," said the West Hartford real estate agent who came to America in 1971.

Many of the traditions he continues center around gathering family together and serving traditional foods: the Feast of the Seven Fishes for Christmas Eve dinner; scachatta, lasagna, pizza and other beloved dishes for Christmas.

If someone is going to be alone for the holiday, he will invite them because it's all about sharing.

Another of his Christmas traditions involves setting up the Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, the Baby Jesus, various animals, the shepherds and, set apart, the Three Kings, who arrive on January 6.

Tihar is a five-day festival celebrated in Nepal. "Nepal is a multicultural and religious country," Raghunath Giree said.

It's been called the Land of Festivals. Although he left there three years ago, he still celebrates many of them, both at his home and at temple.

Tihar, a festival of lights, is one of the most dazzling.

Typically falling in early November, the five-day festival is the second largest festival in most of Nepal, Giree said.

Crows, dogs, oxen and cows each have a day they are worshipped. The third day is the most important; it is when Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, will visit the homes that are appropriately lit. Hence, candles and small oil lamps burn bright. She is also honored with songs, food and firecrackers.

The fourth day marks the beginning of the new year, and on the last day, brothers and sisters put vai tikas on each other's foreheads to ensure a long and prosperous life – a ritual Giree said is among his favorite things about the holiday. That day is known as Bhai Tika. **GL**

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Thanksgiving made easy

Experts offer advice on how to have a stress-free holiday

by Alison Jalbert and Nancy Thompson
LIFE Staff

Thanksgiving sounds like a simple holiday – gather with loved ones to share a meal and express what everyone is thankful for.

Unless you live in a Norman Rockwell painting, it's not always that easy. Whether it's finding dishes to feed vegetarians, figuring out what to buy versus cook, or dealing with frustrating family members, the holiday often comes with stressors, making the day of thanks seem more like a day of terror.

Area experts offer tips on how to make Thanksgiving as enjoyable

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and relaxing as it should – and could – be.

Satisfying vegetarian eaters

Thanksgiving is the holiday for which turkey is the star. But what if you have vegetarians at your table?

Les Harris, a chef and the owner of EZSTREATS, a gourmet food truck and catering service, offered a few suggestions for vegetarian dishes that everyone will enjoy.

For an appetizer, Harris suggested a cold burrata purée with a basil/tomato confite finished with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and saba.

Sounds good, but what is burrata? And what is saba?

Burrata, which is one of this year's hot items, is a ball made from mozzarella with a cream center. The word means butter, a reflection of its milky, buttery flavor. It's available at specialty cheese shops and gourmet markets.

Saba is an ancient condiment that's getting renewed interest among chefs and gourmets.

The thick syrup is the main ingredient in traditional balsamic vinegar, but it's less expensive because it isn't aged.

Harris also suggested three dishes as an entrée – acorn squash stuffed with onions, walnuts, sunflower seeds, celery, raisins and cheddar or goat cheese; grilled asparagus with garlic and panko breadcrumbs; and roasted Brussels sprouts.

The Brussels sprouts are seared and browned in a combination of extra virgin olive oil, salt, pepper, diced onion, crushed garlic and butter, then mixed with walnuts, vegetable stock and cranberries.

Make it or buy it?

Louise Albin, owner of Café Louise Catering in West Hartford, believes that, since Thanksgiving is a celebration of food and giving thanks, everything should be prepared from scratch. She understands that people can be too busy to do that, however, and encourages people to take advantage of caterers or grocery stores that offer Thanksgiving menus.

"We do everything from brining the turkeys," she said. "One of our best-sellers is gravy. Some people don't like making gravy, or they feel insecure about it."

Many people think stuffing is difficult to make, and Albin said that makes them gravitate toward Stove Top stuffing. Making stuffing is "actually quite simple," yet it's another popular item at Café Louise.

For things such as horsd'oeuvres or breads, she encourages people to buy those. There's also a certain can-shaped dish many people prefer over a homemade option.

"One thing I have found both personally as well as over the years, is my husband would much rather have jellied cranberry sauce out of the can versus a cranberry chutney that we make from scratch," she said.

People can make mashed potatoes at home, as well as sweet potatoes, whether it's something as simple as baking them with interesting butter or mashing them.

"You can start doing things days in advance, and it's fine. Sweet potato casserole, turnip casserole and mashed potatoes can be made a few days in advance and warmed up in the oven," Albin said.

"People have it in their heads that they have to be doing everything last minute with pots and pans piled high to the sky."

Creative leftovers

Then there's the question of what to do with all those leftovers, vegetarian or otherwise.

Harris suggested using mashed potatoes for potato pancakes or as the topping for shepherd's pie.

The turkey carcass can be simmered for stock to be used in soup and other dishes, and leftover turkey meat can be used in sandwiches and tetrazzini and ground for burgers, meatballs or meatloaf.

Albin said if the turkey is organic, making a bone broth out of its carcass is "really healthy." Leftover turkey can also be used in pot pie and turkey Bolognese.

She said many side dishes, like potatoes, can be frozen, which saves people from feeling like they need to eat the same foods in different combinations for the next few days.

"If I had a really big turkey, I'll freeze some of the turkey meat and use it in stews or soups," Albin explained. "In the wintertime, I love doing turkey soup and freezing it by the quart."

If people are still feeling stymied by what to do with leftovers, she encourages them to turn to the Internet.

"Nowadays, it's so easy for people to Google 'turkey leftovers' and get a recipe or recipe ideas," she said.

Staying sane with frustrating family members

Frustrating family members often are a major cause of stress at Thanksgiving and throughout the holiday season, when it's easy for a casual comment or action to escalate into a spirit-dampening situation.

Donna Morrison, a licensed clinical social worker with offices in Wethersfield and West Hartford, said knowing how to communicate effectively can help deal with frustrating family members and other guests.

Morrison suggested focusing on clear, calm communication, and doing it before frustration and stress can build. She likes what she calls "I statements" to express frustrations. For example, instead of saying, "You never help me with anything around here," it's better to say, "I feel upset that I don't get any help with the dishes (or the laundry or whatever). Could you help me with it?"

She said another effective "I statement" would be, "I am feeling overwhelmed with all that I have to do. Could each family member make a dish to bring to the holiday dinner?" Phrasing it that way would work better and be more likely to solve a budding problem than s aying, "No one ever helps me so I am not hosting this year."

Some holiday stress comes from overdoing. Morrison suggested setting limits by saying "I can help you with _ on _" instead of offering more than is realistic. **GL**

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Connecticut Trolley Museum

Holiday spotlight

Lighting the center

December 5, 6 to 7 p.m.
Fountain Green, Hebron Avenue and Main Street Glastonbury Town Center Initiative, glastonburytci.org

This almost-annual event will feature a visit from Santa Claus, caroling with a chorus from Backbeat City, festive treats and the lighting of the town's center. There is no rain date, so inclement weather will cancel.

Santa's 3.5-mile run

December 6, noon
Glastonbury High School, 330 Hubbard St.

This family-oriented race, sponsored by Quality Name Plate, Inc., Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union and the Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department, will support the local fuel bank. Runners are invited to dress in their wildest Christmas costumes. The first 150 to register online or by mail will receive a free long-sleeve shirt. The entry fee is $15 in advance and $20 on the day of the race. Snow date is December 13.

Glastonbury Chorus holiday concert

December 6, 4 p.m.
Smith Middle School, 216 Addison Rd. Glastonburychorus.org

Members of the Glastonbury Chorus will perform songs of the season with a reception following the concert. $8 adults, $5 seniors and students. There is no charge for children younger than 7 and active-duty service members in uniform. Tickets are available at the door or from chorus members. Non-perishable food items not in glass containers will be collected for the local food bank.

Giant menorah lighting and community Chanukah celebration

December 9, 6:30 p.m.
Fountain Green, Hebron Avenue and Main Street, Chabader.com

The celebration, sponsored by Chabad: East of the River, will feature hot cider, latkes, a children's choir, singing, dancing, and a free raffle and prizes. There is no charge to attend.

Radio City Christmas Show trip

December 15, 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Departs from and returns to East Hartford/Glastonbury commuter lot on Main Street
Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department, 860-652-7679

Courtesy of Anna Spencer

More than 65 million people have seen this legendary show starring the high-kicking Radio City Rockettes. The show includes a living nativity. The bus should arrive in New York around 10 a.m. and will leave at 6:30 p.m. to allow for time for sight-seeing before and after the 1 p.m. show. Tickets in the first balcony. $135 for transportation and show. **GL**

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your Thoughts

With Thanksgiving almost upon us, thoughts shift to gratitude. Glastonbury LIFE wondered what residents are grateful for this holiday season. Here's some of what you said.

My husband and my boys (Charlie, 2, and Jack, 5).
– Abby Sheehan with son Charlie

I think the most important thing is good health. It's precious and can be taken away in just a minute.
– Coe Bancroft

My health and my family; it's very simple.
– Monika Wilcox, pictured with her daughters

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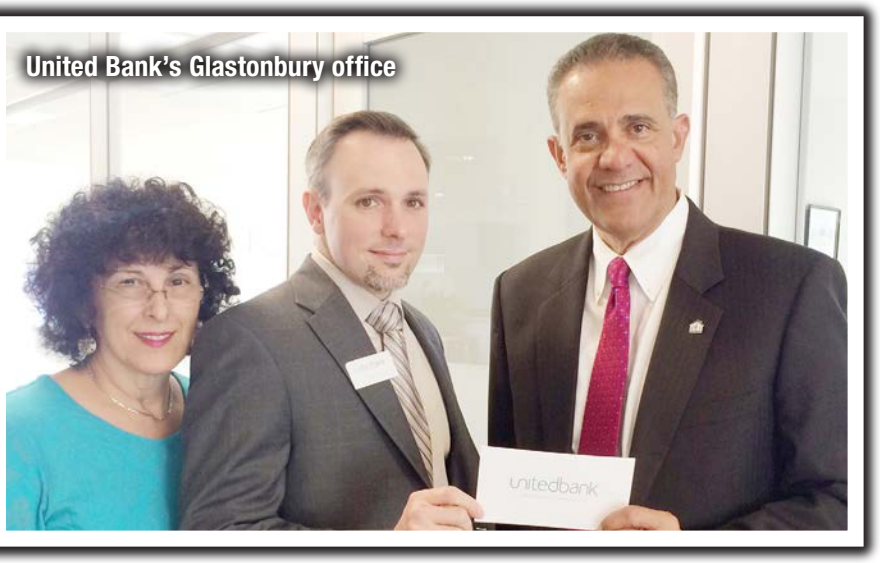
Business Notes

Amber Kendrick has been named to the National Association of Plan Advisors list of top women advisors for 2015. Kendrick, who has worked in the retirement services industry since 2006, is an advisor with **C.I.G. Retirement Plan Consulting,** a local financial services company. The list recognizes women who are making significant contributions to the retirement plan industry. C.I.G. Retirement Plan Consulting is at 294 New London Turnpike. To learn more, visit cigretirement.com.

Employee Family Protection has helped raise $570,000 for the Komen Foundation in memory of a Rose Tomaino, one of the company's original employees. When Tomaino lost a battle with breast cancer 10 years ago, company founder Charlie Stepnowski started Rose's Legacy and vowed to sponsor an annual golf tournament for the next 10 years to raise money for breast cancer research in her memory. This year's tournament, the tenth and last, raised more than $125,000.

Employee Family Protection



United Bank's Glastonbury office

Courtesy photos

More than 59 volunteers at a sewing event sponsored by **Close to Home Sewing Center** created 29 nightshirts and more than 200 pillows for patients in the hospice unit at Middlesex Hospital.

United Bank's Glastonbury office has donated $1,000 to The Village for Families & Children. Anthony Sweet, the bank's vice president and relationship manager, presented the donation to Galo Rodriguez, president and CEO of The Village, and JoAnn Adams, director of the group's local auxiliary, which runs the Second Change Shop to support programs at The Village.

Rooftop 120 in Eric Town Square has opened Nosh @ Rooftop 120, a new restaurant inside the restaurant. Chef Xavier Santiago has created a new menu for the new restaurant.

Ki-Elements is moving to 381 Hubbard St., Suite 201, at the beginning of December. Owner Krista MacGregor will be available for appointments full-time after the move. **GL**

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‘Educating, uplifting, and helping individuals and families’

Chabad: East of the River got its start in an apartment

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky and his wife, Yehudis, took a “Field of Dreams” approach when they came to town almost 15 years ago to start Chabad: East of the River – if you build it, people will come.

In the early days, the Wolvovsky apartment off Hebron Avenue served as their Chabad headquarters. Larger events were held at local parks or other facilities.

Not long after settling in town, the Wolvovskys were ready for a move. They were expecting their first child and bought a home in Glastonbury, where they continued to hold classes, services and other programs after moving in August 2002. Services were held at the Wolvovsky home, with story time for children at the library and one-on-one classes at peoples’ homes and offices.

As their community grew, Chabad Jewish Center was ready for a permanent home and in 2007, they bought property at 25 Harris St. that had been a convenience store. Russell and Dawson, an East Hartford architectural firm, worked with Chabad on the design. When the firm was commissioned for the project, they looked up “Jewish Temple” online and found an image for the original Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The archway of the

Courtesy photo

Rabbi Yosef Wolvovsky blows a shofar on the roof of the Chabad Jewish Center as part of the first-ever Shofar Bike & Blast, held this summer. The bike ride from the Glastonbury Chabad to the West Hartford Chabad had 18 stops along the way and was designed to promote their open door policy for the high holidays.

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Glastonbury building is designed to resemble its main entrance.
About 300 people attended the official dedication and grand opening in 2007. As one rabbi quipped at the celebration, "This place used to be a convenience store for food; now it will be a convenience store for Judaism."

Chabad is not a traditional synagogue. There are no memberships or dues and their programs are open to everyone, regardless of background or experience.

The word "Chabad" is an acronym that stands for the Hebrew words chochma, meaning wisdom, bina, meaning understanding, and daas, meaning knowledge.

Chabad is a branch of the Chassidic movement, founded several hundred years ago in Russia by Rabbi Schneur Zalman. It stresses the exploration and observance of Judaism with a joyous attitude, with a special emphasis placed on making the teachings and traditions of Judaism accessible to people of all backgrounds. Its basic principal is that all people are capable of engaging in a meaningful and comprehensive relationship with God, which should encompass every aspect of a person's life. A high degree of importance is placed upon the understanding of Torah, law, ethics and mysticism.

Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, known commonly as "The Rebbe," led the movement from his headquarters in New York, expanded the movement exponentially. Schneerson, who died in 1994, encouraged each individual

Ilya Tsvok completes writing a letter in the new Torah scroll dedicated to the memory of his son, Mark, with help from Rabbi Moshe Klein, while his daughter, Nikka Tsvok, watches. A photo of Mark Tsvok is in the background.

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to become a leader by spreading wisdom and kindness and also sent out thousands of ambassadors to countries around the world and throughout the United States.

The Chabad Jewish Center in Glastonbury, one of 23 in the state, was founded in 2001 when the regional headquarters in Hartford realized the need for establishing a permanent center east of the Connecticut River. Rabbi Wolvovsky and his wife were dispatched to the community.

Today, the Wolvovsky family includes nine children, the oldest in high school and the youngest born this past summer. The rabbi and his wife are directors of the Chabad Jewish Center, and the children also play an important role in welcoming people and helping them feel comfortable.

The Chabad model is such that they set up operation as a family. While the centers serve as a place of worship and an educational center, they are much more than that. Chabad strives to be part of the community, serving a variety of needs. Chabad is often at the forefront after disasters. In Glastonbury, for example, Chabad opened its doors after the October snowstorm in 2011 and after Hurricane Sandy to offer food and comfort to all who needed it.

Harold and Marilyn Rothstein donated funds to help Chabad buy the 5,000-square-foot building, which is called The Benet Rothstein Chabad Jewish Center in honor of their son. Following Harold Rothstein's death, his wife asked that his name be added to the dedication, and Chabad is working with her to pay proper respect Harold's memory and legacy. The building houses prayer services, holiday programs, adult education classes, community events and a Hebrew school for children.

The school, which Chabad has dubbed a "fun Hebrew school," has been in operation for a decade and is open to children ages 5 through 12.

Yehudis Wolvovsky spoke at "Spa for the Soul," a special day of learning and relaxation for women. More than 100 women attended the 2006 event.

There also is a special senior class for young teens. The school started with seven students. Today, 31 students are enrolled.

It's not the only program that has grown. Their weekly services on Saturday mornings started with four people; today, they average close to 30.

The one-on-one study sessions have turned into teaching an average of 45 people a week. Courses have been offered on a wide range of topics, including the legalities of the Talmud, the mysticism of Kabbalah, the meaning of the holidays, the Hebrew language, the history of Judaism and the joys of kosher cooking.

The center attracts hundreds of people of all ages to programs for major holidays, such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukah, and Passover. The programs include prayer services, Passover Seders and the annual public Chanukah candle-lighting ceremonies, which take place in Glastonbury and other communities around the area. They also have established branches at UCONN and Wesleyan University, both of which are now self-supported and staffed by full-time families.

"What we do each and every day – educating, uplifting, and helping individuals and families – is truly special and rewarding," Wolvovsky said. "When people say, 'Chabad has changed my life for the better,' that is a true highlight. We are here for you." **GL**

To learn more, visit chabader.com, call 860-659-2422 or send an email to rabbi@chabader.com.

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People notes

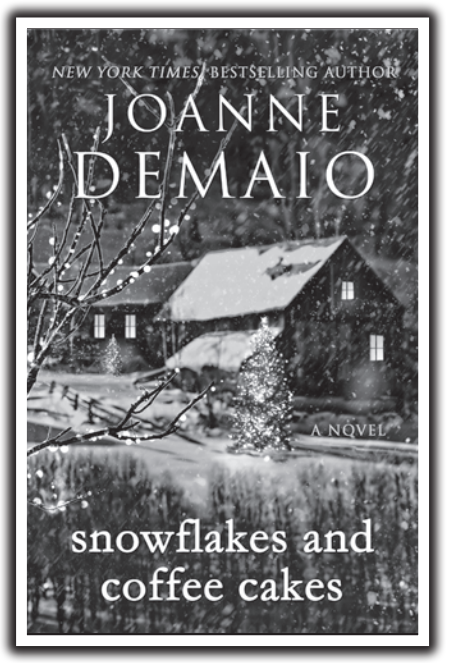
Courtesy photos

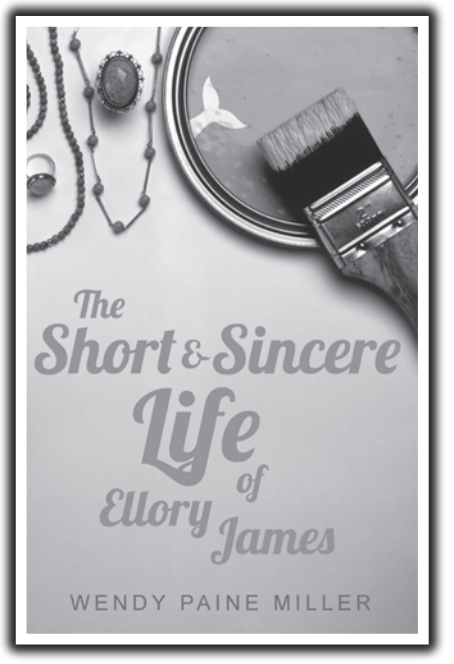
Three local authors, **Wendy Paine Miller, Pete Gletzakos** and **Joanne DeMaio,** have written new books.

Miller's book, her fourth, is "The Short & Sincere Life of Ellory James," a young adult novel.

Gletzakos's book, his second, is "Magar Invasion", a young adult science fiction novel.

DeMaio's book, her sixth, is "Snowflakes and Coffee Cakes." It is one of 20 NOOK books to be promoted at Six Flags during its national Holiday in the Park event.





Stephen F. Roche has been hired as senior vice president and greater Hartford commercial banking team leader at United Bank of Glastonbury. Roche formerly worked at TD Bank, where he was a senior vice president and regional manager.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has launched a new ad campaign highlighting several local residents. The ads, which depict people of all ages, races and economic status who have chosen to give in a variety of ways, feature **Bobby DiBella, Ilka Torres** and the **DiPiazza family** as well as five others from area towns.

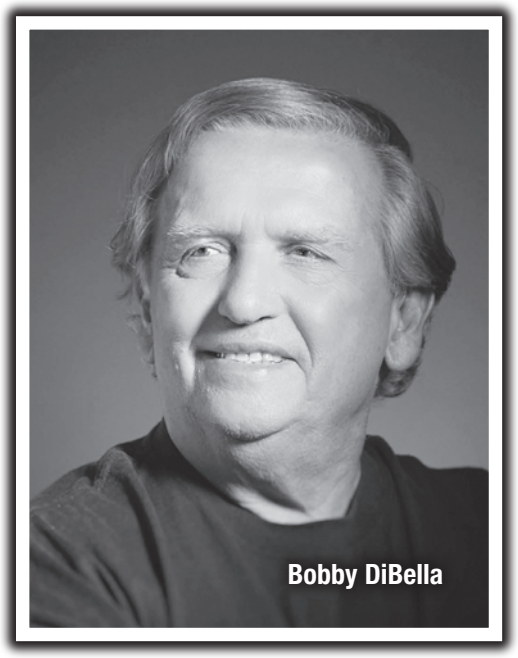
Lisa Maynard has received the 2015 Look Good Feel Better Sunrise Award from the American Cancer Society in recognition of her work with the program throughout the state.

Leo Milewski, Steve Veronesi and **Jory Pagluighi** have joined the Glastonbury Rotary Club.

Eric D. Daniels and his wife, **Pat,** are co-chairing the 2016 gala for Interval House, an organization that helps women and children who experience psychological and physical abuse from their domestic partners. Eric Daniels is an honorary director of Interval House's board of directors and is an attorney with Robinson+Cole. The gala will take place April 2 in Hartford. **GL**

Glastonbury Rotary Club

Ilka Torres


Bobby DiBella

DiPiazza family

Events spotlight

The Great Reveal: Men of the Glastonbury Chamber Calendar

December 4, 6 p.m.
Goodwin College, 195 East River Drive, East Hartford
Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce, 860-659-3587

After a year's hiatus, the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce's calendar is back. The calendar, which features several of the community's businessmen, will be revealed and the men will be on hand to mix, mingle and sign their pages. The event starts with a reception featuring beverages and light food. The runway reveal will take place 7:15 p.m., and a closing reception will including calendar signing. Tickets cost $25 for chamber members and $30 for others and includes the evening's festivities and a copy of the calendar.

The Great Reveal: Men of the Glastonbury Chember Calendar

Courtesy photo

Winter Solstice celebration

Photo by Duffy Schade

Holiday Nature Store grand opening

December 5, 1 to 4 p.m.
Connecticut Audubon Center, 1361 Main St., 860-633-8402

There's a new store in town for the holiday season. The Holiday Nature Store's grand opening will feature nature-themed gift items and feature activities such as face painting and cookie decorating for children. Lois Eldridge, a local potter, and Cliff Janssen, a wood carver, will be on hand for the grand opening. Proceeds from the store will support the center's programs. Items, which will be available 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday through December 12, include holiday decorations, gardening gifts, nature books, children's books and puzzles, field guides, jewelry, bird houses and feeders and unique gift baskets.

Christmas sale

December 7, 8 and 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
December 12, 9 a.m. to noon.
Museum on the Green, 1944 Main St., hsgct.org or 860-633-6890.

The Historical Society of Glastonbury is sponsoring this event, which features decorative Christmas-themed items that have been donated to the society. This year, the society's holiday reception will coincide with the start of the sale. The museum will be decorated for the season and the society will be commemorating the 175th anniversary of Glastonbury's original "town house," which is now its headquarters and known as the Museum on the Green.

Winter Solstice celebration

December 21, 7:30 p.m.
Connecticut Audubon Society Center, 1361 Main St. Ctaudubon.org or 860-633-8402

Participants will welcome the beginning of winter and the longest night of the year with songs, dance, stories, music and a huge bonfire. Kasha Breau and Dave Magee will talk about the traditions used to celebrate this event, and those in attendance will be invited to share a story, poem, reading or song. A light snack will be provided. The cost is $8 for society members with a family maximum of $24, $10 for non-members with a family maximum of $30. Advance reregistration is required since the event usually sells out quickly. **GL**

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West Hartford, CT
860-521-1573
skatevmsr.com

Mark your calendar now for our annual **Skate with Santa** on Friday, December 18 4:30-5:30 for some fun on the ice with Santa!

December *calendar*

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1 **Town council,** 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7710 or glastonbury-ct.gov.

2 **Book discussion,** 7 p.m., Welles-Turner Memorial Library friends room, 2407 Main St. 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.com.

4 **Men of the Glastonbury Chamber – The Great Reveal,** 6 to 9 p.m. Goodwin College, 195 East River Dr., East Hartford. Chamber members $25, others $30.

5 **Holiday Nature Store grand opening,** 1 to 4 p.m., Connecticut Audubon Center, 1361 Main St. Store will be open Tuesday through Saturday through December 12. 860-633-8402.

Lighting the Center, 6 p.m., Fountain Green. No charge. Glastonburytci.org.

6 **Santa's 3.5-mile run**, noon, Glastonbury High School. $15 in advance and $20 on the day of the race. Snow date is December 13.

Sound of New England Chorus and Glastonbury High School Madrigal Chois in concert, 2 p.m., Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St. $15, $10 for seniors and students. 877-LUV-2-SING or soundofnewengland.org.

7 **Christmas sale featuring items donated to the Historical Society of Glastonbury**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Museum on the Green, 1944 Main St. hsgct.org or 860-633-6890.

8 **Downton Abbey: Fashion and Social Change with Susan J. Jerome, collections manager at the University of Rhode Island Historic Textile and Costume Collection**, 6:30 p.m., Welles-Turner Memorial Library friends room, 2407 Main St. 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.com. Registration is requested.

Christmas sale featuring items donated to the Historical Society of Glastonbury, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Museum on the Green, 1944 Main St. hsgct.org or 860-633-6890.

10 **Christmas sale featuring items donated to the Historical Society of Glastonbury,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Museum on the Green, 1944 Main St. hsgct.org or 860-633-6890.

11 **Guided bird walk,** 7:30 to 9 a.m., Earle Park. $5 for members, $10 for non-members payable at the door. Call 860-633-8402 to let staff know you're coming.

12 **Steve Nystrup and Maureen Wasik in concert to benefit a school in Sierra Leone,** 7 p.m., The Gathering Room. Suggested donation $20, $10 for seniors and students, plus a donation for the local food bank. Call 860-633-5057 or email pattisivocole@gmail.com to sign up. Directions will be given at that time.

Christmas sale featuring items donated to the Historical Society of Glastonbury, 9 a.m. to noon, Museum on the Green, 1944 Main St. hsgct.org or 860-633-6890.

14 **Board of education,** 7:30 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7961 or glastonburyus.org.

15 **Town plan and zoning commission,** 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. glastonbury-ct.gov.

19 **Coffeehouse Project for high school students**, 7 to 10 p.m., Academy cafeteria and teen center, 2143 Main St.

21 **Winter Solstice celebration,** 7:30 p.m., CT Audubon Society Center, 1361 Main St. Members $8 with $24 family maximum, non-members $10 with $30 family maximum. Pre-register by calling 860-633-8402. **GL**

News roundup

Courtesy photo

Supporting small businesses

The town's Second Annual Small Business Saturday will take place November 28 at shops throughout town. Participating businesses will have "Shop Here" signs and be included in "Where to Shop" maps. Shoppers will earn raffle tickets for money spent at any of the participating locations.

Class of 1945

Nine members of the Glastonbury High School Class of 1945 gathered recently for lunch at The Gallery. They are, sitting, Gladys Dubicki, Hazel Frye, Frances Peragallo and Alvah Russell, and standing,

Annn Godzyk, Lillian Johnson, Eleanor Reale, John Bigotta and Marion Hallas.

Crew teams

Mixed crew teams from Glastonbury High School earned a gold and a silver medal in the Head of the Fish Regatta, held in Saratoga New York.

The mixed B boat with Sara Tavakoli, Missy Bancroft, Sahith Obbu, Jordan Sardo, Emma McCarthy, Sophie Vredenburg, Jonathan Brautigam, Jason Post and Aaron Shultzas as coxswain came in first place in their event, while the mixed A boat, with Max Riley, Mike Nicolson, Mai Vestergaard, Julia Boll, Matt Trailor, Ethan Cummiskey, Eleanor Dowd, Shawn Perry and Kira Patel as coxswain took second place in theirs.

New, small antennas may help phone service

Cellco Partnership – Verizon Wireless – hopes to install 10 small antennas along Griswold, Hubbard, Main and Oak streets. The antennas, known as small cells, would be placed on top of existing utility poles. The cells, which reach one-tenth of a mile to a half mile, are being proposed for 2 Griswold St., 330 and 377 Hubbard St., 387, 579, 835, 1037, 1360 and 1440 Main St. and 55 Oak St. State public utilities regulators will conduct hearings on the plan if abutting property owners object.

School projects proposed

Superintendent Alan Bookman has proposed $11.6 million in capital improvement projects for the town's schools during the 2016-17 school year. They include air conditioning Hebron Avenue, Buttonball Lane and Hopewell elementary school and the Gideon Welles School, which houses the town's sixth-grade classes. The air conditioning would cost about $1.7 for each of the three elementary schools and $3.5 for Gideon Welles.

Other projects include replacing the turf at the high school football field and the gym floor at Hopewell Elementary School, $200,000 for energy incentives such as upgrading lighting and water heaters, $240,000 for required fire code updates throughout the school system.

Bookman has been urging members of the board of education and town council to support air conditioning in the schools since the start of the school year, when students and staff were subjected to exceptionally warm days. **GL**

Slice of LIFE

photos by Brian Ambrose

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Music Together

Preschool children and their parents and other adults are learning about music and movement through Music Together, a program offered by the Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department. Classes meet Tuesday mornings at the Riverfront Community Center and Saturday mornings at The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury. 1. Carrie Wechsler plays guitar at the start of a Music Together class. 2. Antonia Cauley and her mother, Crista, enjoy dancing to the music. 3. Olivia Colletti uses a drum while her mom, Kara, looks on. 4. Christa Cauley beats out a rhythm. 5. Madeleine Bruno taps some noisemakers together in time with the music. 6. Justin Rosa enjoys making music. 7. Olivia Colletti and her mother Kara, wave to the music. 8. Justin Rosa and his mother, Vantana, enjoy a moment together. 9. Elaine Auger snuggles with her grandson, Rutherford. 10. Nora Reamer discovers the fun of clanging cymbals.support each other. 11. Mooney Narine listens with her charges, Madeleine and Samuel Bruno.

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a new leash on LIFE

Gretell

Gretell is a 9-month-old bundle of energy who can't wait to go to a loving home. A terrier and American Staffordshire mix, she is best suited for a single-family home or condominium. Gretell's energy level makes her best suited for children who are 12 or older. She needs lots of exercise and is willing to share her home with a cat or two, but needs to be the only dog. A family with prior experience handling active dogs is the best match.

Rory, Ronnie and Renny

Rory and his brothers Ronnie and Renny are white rats. Just two months old, they are highly social and inquisitive and don't mind being handled. They would make great pets for a young family because, other than social time with their human friends, they happily live in a cage. That means children and other pets are OK. CHS staff said rats are less likely to nip or bite than gerbils or hamsters.

Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at cthumane.org. Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption. **GL**

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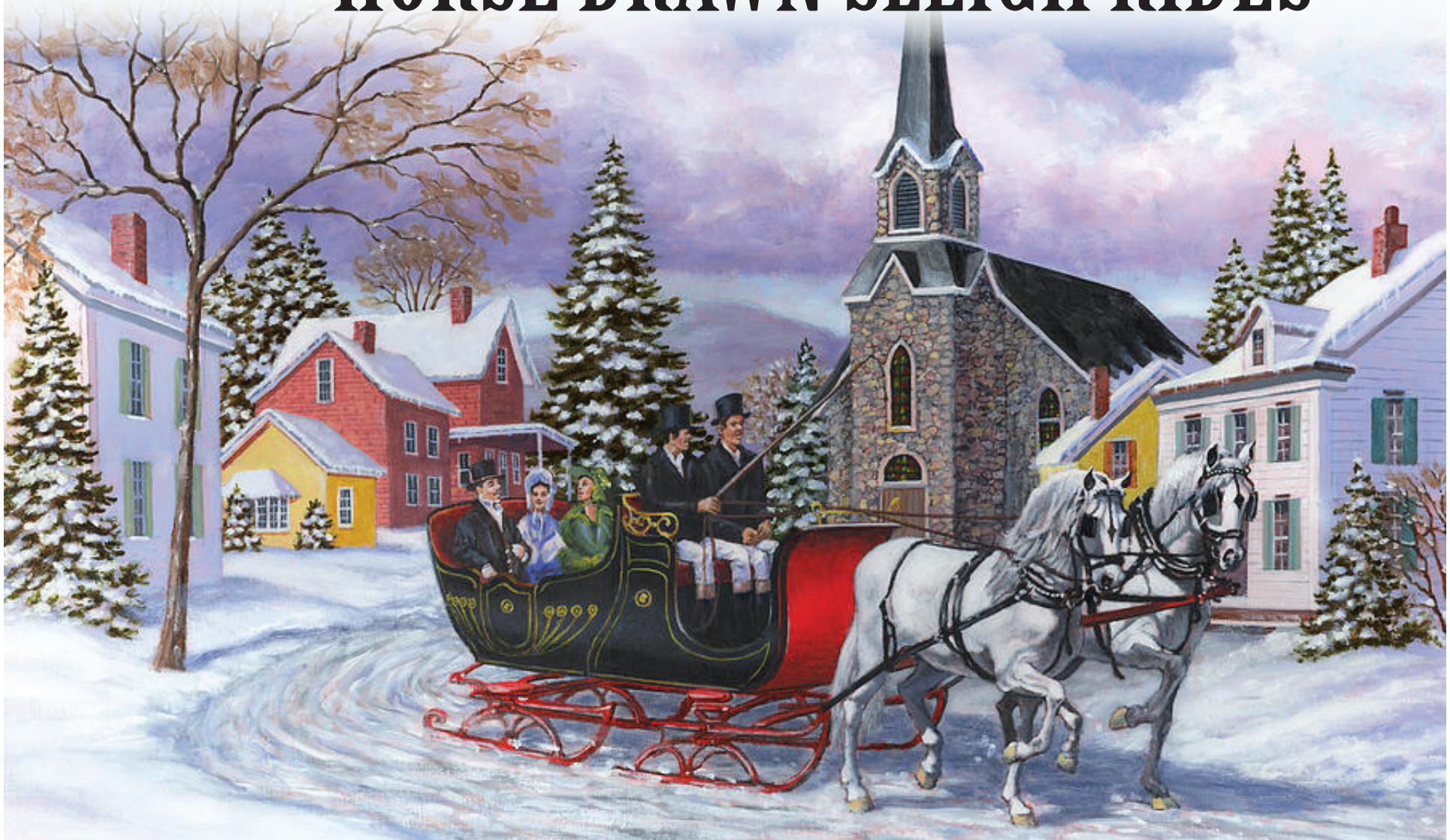

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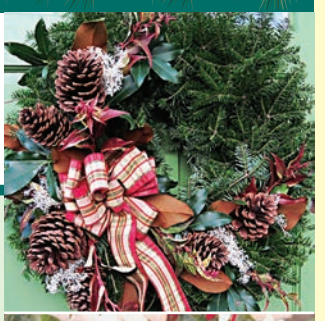

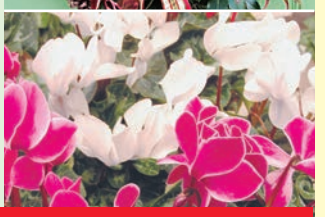

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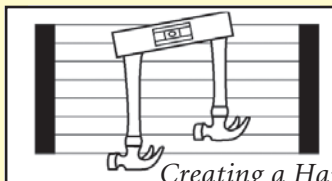

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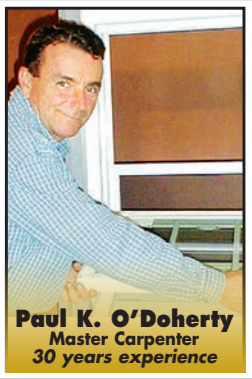

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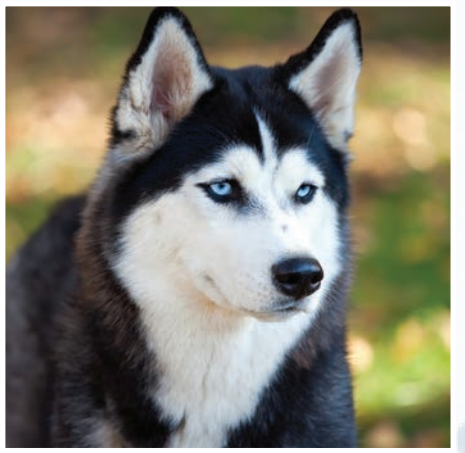

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Note from Nancy

Talking turkey

It's time to talk turkey. My husband and I started reminiscing last night about the many turkeys we've cooked over the years and the disasters that followed.

The first, and I'm going back more than 40 years to a time when my ignorance about cooking was legendary, was the turkey I asked the butcher to cut in half down the middle. There were only two of us, and there was no way we could possibly eat a whole turkey before it turned green and stinky, so half a turkey sounded perfect.

I put one of the halves in the oven and did what any total idiot would do, cooked it for half as long as the wrapper said. Made sense to me. Half a turkey, half as much time.

This would be a short column if that was the first and last time we destroyed a turkey. But wait. There's more.

Not long after moving into our brand spanking new house back in the early '70s we cooked a turkey. It should have been uneventful, but somehow the little "CLEAN" button got pushed and the self-cleaning feature of our brand spanking new oven kicked on.

It's handy that the oven door locks shut during the self-clean cycle and probably prevents a lot of people from getting hurt, but when you have a flaming turkey inside and the door is locked, it's not such a good idea. Happily, my husband thought to go into the basement and flip the circuit breaker. Yet another turkey in the trash.

A year or so after that incident we bought a charcoal kettle grill. It worked well, but it was hard to regulate the temperature. Yep. Up in flames. We'd incinerated yet another one.

After that we became very conventional and cooked our turkeys in the oven in those plastic bags that render the whole process foolproof. But that was getting boring, so in 2003 we got fancy again.

We'd both read "The Time-Traveler's Wife," and for some reason, the book mentions something called a "Thompson Turkey." My husband tracked down the recipe, which is credited to Morton Thompson, the man who wrote "Not as a Stranger," a popular novel and motion picture in the 1950s. I don't know why a novelist decided to create a turkey recipe, but we did a Thompson Turkey for the Thompson family Thanksgiving.

We lit the gas grill and mixed the required paste, which is made of egg yolks, herbs, lemon juice "and enough sifted flour to make it good and stiff."

The idea is to paint the paste all over the bird several times while it's cooking. If done right – apparently we didn't – the paste hardens into a shell and the turkey inside comes out moist and tender and delicious.

All I remember is a lot of smoke coming out of the grill, a lot of laughing and a really, really ugly turkey. I don't remember if we ate it, but I do know we never tried it again.

We went back to boring plastic bag turkeys until I returned to Glastonbury LIFE in 2007. A local turkey farm was selling organic heritage turkeys and we just had to try one, brined and cooked just so. We should've tried two. It was good, but there really wasn't enough meat on those organic heritage bones to serve our family.

A couple of years later I wrote about Prudence Sloane's "disassembled turkey" class, offered as part of the local adult education program. Of course, I couldn't write about the class without doing it, and everyone agreed it was the best turkey ever.

Before long, all that perfection started became tiresome, so our son, a Connecticut guy with a love of deep-South food, bought a turkey fryer. We used the Food Network's technique with a step-ladder and pulleys so we wouldn't fry anything except the turkey, and it was amazing. We were hooked. And it would've been delicious again last year if we hadn't made a math error and undercooked it by an hour or so.

We're going to do it again. It was that good. But this year we'll use a calculator.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

– *Nancy Thompson*

glastonbury LIFE

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]

From Autumn, to Winter...

After a stunning show of colors this fall across Connecticut, it's time for winter – but what will the season hold for us, this time?

Making big headlines: El Nino, and the fact that this year's is one of the strongest on record. It's the warming of the Pacific Ocean that can have a big influence on large scale weather patterns. Typically with a strong El Nino, in our part of the country, we can expect a milder but also wetter than normal season.

There are many other factors that play into a long-range outlook. Also remember that while it very well could, on average, be warmer than normal... we can still get outbreaks of very cold air. Adding to the complexity is determining the frequency of storms and how intense they will be in Connecticut.

Speaking of storms, in case you're not familiar, WFSB has been naming winter storms since 1971 (back to the days of the Travelers Weather Service). It's a tradition WFSB is proud to carry on here in the state of Connecticut, now in its 5th decade!

A storm has to meet certain criteria in order to be named: we must expect at least 6" of snow for much of the state, and/or ½" of ice accretion (that would be a significant ice storm). Given we are going into a Presidential election year, the theme for this season will be former First Ladies! **GL**

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EAST HARTFORD – 3BR/2BA home w/ oversized 2 car garage. BRAND NEW ROOF. LR w/ cathedral ceiling & lrg bay window. Freshly painted, new carpeting & HW floors. Large FR w/ built-ins & 8ft slider exiting out to 3 season porch. 2 driveways, central air & laundry room.

$169,900 JodySmaglis.com 860-573-2090

EAST HARTFORD – 2BR/1BA Ranch in move in condition! LR w/ gleaming HW flrs. Updated kit. Partially fin basement, laundry area w/ washer/dryer & storage. Walk up attic, C/Air & new HWH. Porch right off kit leads to deck, fully fenced in backyard, garden area & shed.

$124,900 SueSeguro.com 860-655-5250

GLASTONBURY – Beautiful waterfront lot on Addison Pond! Approved building lot w/barn on approx. 1/2 acre! Underground utilities, public water, public sewer, natural gas & cable available. Close to all town amenities, private neighborhood setting, cul-de-sac.

$159,900 Gina-Lavery.com 860-869-2148

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is, once again, a proud supporter of the annual

We are the Children Toy Drive

We invite you to bring your *New, Unwrapped Toy* through December 16th to 119 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury

All of the toys collected will be distributed throughout CT to homeless, abused and disabled children at the annual ***"We Are the Children" Holiday Party.***

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE CARES FOUNDATION

GLASTONBURY – 2009 custom built home on apprx. 1.89ac abutting a state forest. Open floor plan, 9' ceilings, central vac, security sys, study, neutral décor. Fin walk-out lower level. Brand new in-ground heated pool with pavilion. Owners just invested $117,000.

$599,900 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

GLASTONBURY – 5BR/3.1BA Colonial on apprx 4 ac. Lrg gourmet kit w/granite & SS, dble ovens, lrg pantry ceilings both flrs. Newer & subzero fridge. Expansive FR w/marble fp & wet bar. MBR w/2 closets & jacuzzi. 9' roof, irrigation sys, security sys & central vac.

$535,000 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

GLASTONBURY – Premier custom built 4BR/3.1BA in popular Balmoral neigborhood. Designer touches incl. columned rooms, crown molding, tray ceilings, wainscoting & starburst windows. Exercise & game room in fin. LL. Priv. level yard. Expansive deck for 3 season use.

$648,000 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

GLASTONBURY – NEW PRICE! Exquisite 5BR/4.1BA Colonial w/high-end custom craftsmanship! Nestled in a cul-de-sac nbrhd w/fabulous open flr plan, 2 story foyer & FR. Gourmet kit, MBR w/fp & sitting area. Irrigation sys, central vacuum, security system & more!

$639,000 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

GLASTONBURY – PRIVACY, 2-CAR ATT GARAGE & SHINING WOOD FLOORS are highlights of this 2BR/2.1BA contemp, open-plan end unit! Brand new furnace & AC! Kitch w/ SS appl's & abundant cabinet space. Walk-in level is a tiled (20x10) multi-use room included in sq footage!

$229,000 SuzanneDelany.com 860-402-6178

GLASTONBURY – 4BR/3.1BA stately Col. Modern style kit w/ granite, SS appl's & lrg island. Master suite w/ fp, grand chandelier, high ceilings, hrdwd flrs, balcony, amazing custom built walk-in closet. Addt'l finished space in LL w/ wet bar, full bath & walk out. Agent related.

$574,900 AnnaZastem.com 860-604-2106

MANCHESTER – 3BR/2BA recently updated ranch on apprx 1 acre. Lrg open LR & DR, HW floors, updated kitchen, sunroom. Walk out lower level holds 1BR, new bath & pellet stove. Central air & standby whole house generator, garden space, stone walls & level backyard.

$199,900 Gina-Lavery.com 860-869-2148

GLASTONBURY – LANDSCAPERS, CAR BUFFS TAKE NOTE! 3 car det garage w/ full loft + 1 car att garage! Cont 3/2.1 on 2+ private acres. W/out LLevel incl 1/2 ba & wine room! Great room w/ vaulted ceiling. Country kitch w/ walk-in pantry & brick FP with built-in grill!

$359,500 SuzanneDelany.com 860-402-6178

GLASTONBURY – Pristine 4BR/2.1BA Cape in sought after Minnechaug. Lg. kit w/bkfst bar, bay window & vaulted ceiling open to cozy FR w/stone fp. Lg deck & front porch, level yd w/irrigation sys. Newer furnace, roof, A/C & driveway! Nat'l gas, public water & sewer.

$489,900 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

MANCHESTER – Beautiful custom built Ansaldi Cape in neighborhood of fine homes. MBR & laundry on 1st flr. Generously sized rooms w/abundant closet & storage. Gleaming hdwd flrs on both levels. 3 season porch overlooking prvt. backyard. Public water & sewer.

$279,900 Julia-Rosner.com 860-508-3636

GLASTONBURY-PORTLAND LINE – NEW PRICE! 3BR/3.1BA rarely avail remodeled CT River front home w/gourmet kit & granite counters, lrg island, SS appl's & walk-in pantry. Open flr pln ideal for entertaining. LR & DR w/24 feet of sliders, spacious deck, FR exits to screened in porch.

$749,900 JodySmaglis.com 860-573-2090

PORTLAND – Charming 4BR/1.1BA Saltbox Col. Lrg LR w/ fp & french doors, country kitchen, DR w/ pine flrs & chair rail, 1st flr FR w/ built-ins, flr to ceiling fp. Lrg FR room in fin basement. New roof 2010, 2 car gar w/ loft & single det. garage w/ electricity.

$349,900 JodySmaglis.com 860-573-2090

Glastonbury Office | 119 Hebron Avenue | Glastonbury, CT 06033 | 860.633.3661

ColdwellBankerHomes.com

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